



# 2022 G20 Bali Summit Final Compliance Report

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.  
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## 10. Health: Universal Health Coverage

“We remain committed to promoting a healthy and sustainable recovery which builds towards achieving and sustaining Universal Health Coverage under the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals].”

*G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

|                | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina      |               | 0                  |                 |
| Australia      |               |                    | +1              |
| Brazil         |               | 0                  |                 |
| Canada         |               |                    | +1              |
| China          |               | 0                  |                 |
| France         |               | 0                  |                 |
| Germany        |               |                    | +1              |
| India          |               | 0                  |                 |
| Indonesia      |               |                    | +1              |
| Italy          |               |                    | +1              |
| Japan          |               |                    | +1              |
| Korea          |               |                    | +1              |
| Mexico         |               | 0                  |                 |
| Russia         |               |                    | +1              |
| Saudi Arabia   |               | 0                  |                 |
| South Africa   |               | 0                  |                 |
| Türkiye        |               | 0                  |                 |
| United Kingdom |               |                    | +1              |
| United States  |               | 0                  |                 |
| European Union |               |                    | +1              |
| Average        |               | +0.50 (75%)        |                 |

### Background

The G20 first addressed the issues related to health in Brisbane in 2014. That year the world was deeply concerned with the outbreak of Ebola virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The G20 members approved a joint statement on the Ebola threat and pledged to “do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak” and urged the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to “continue their strong support for the affected countries.” Moreover, the G20 members pledged to fully implement the World Health Organization (WHO)’s International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing “longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”<sup>1884</sup>

The G20 again addressed healthcare issues in 2017 during the Presidency of Germany. At a ministerial meeting in Berlin, Health Ministers produced the joint Berlin Declaration. The G20 members’ ministers of health acknowledged the exceptional role of the IHR 2005 and agreed to act “accordingly with our obligations under the IHR and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international concern.” In addition to taking joint international actions, the G20 members agreed to “strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics” within their own jurisdictions.<sup>1885</sup> In the communique, the G20 leaders acknowledged the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) “growing threat to public

<sup>1884</sup> G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, RANEPА (Moscow) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 7 February 2023. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2014brisbane/G20%20Leaders%E2%80%99%20Brisbane%20Statement%20on%20Ebola.pdf>

<sup>1885</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, RANEPА (Moscow) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 7 February 2023. [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20\\_Health\\_Ministers\\_Declaration\\_engl.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf)

health and economic growth” and pledged to “strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment.”<sup>1886</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 leaders focused on the provision of “better health care” and agreed to “improve health care quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage.”<sup>1887</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit G20 leaders recalled their commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities.<sup>1888</sup>

At the Rome summit in 2021 they reaffirmed the commitment to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Universal Health Coverage.<sup>1889</sup>

At 2022 Bali Summit the G20 leaders committed to promoting a healthy and sustainable recovery which builds towards achieving and sustaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC) under the SDGs.<sup>1890</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

Actions of a G20 member in line with obligations to promote moving towards UHC may refer to three main objectives pointed out by WHO:

1. “Equity in access to health services – everyone who needs services should get them, not only those who can pay for them;
2. The quality of health services should be good enough to improve the health of those receiving services; and
3. People should be protected against financial risk, ensuring that the cost of using services does not put people at risk of financial harm.”<sup>1891</sup>

World Bank identifies four priority areas of action to strengthen UHC:

- ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare, allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases;
- engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery;
- improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs;
- changing the models of UHC’s financing so countries get better outcomes for the money they are spending.<sup>1892</sup>

To achieve full compliance the G20 member should take actions on all four priority areas, identified by the World Bank. Partial compliance requires taking actions in one to three areas. The G20 member receives a score of –1 if it does not take actions in any of the action areas.

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<sup>1886</sup> G20 Hamburg Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, RANEPА (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders\\_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf)

<sup>1887</sup> G20 Buenos Aires Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, RANEPА (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 7 February 2023 [ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos\\_aires\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf)

<sup>1888</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News\\_ciir/Project/G20\\_new\\_downloadings/FINAL\\_G20\\_Osaka\\_Leaders\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf)

<sup>1889</sup> G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/italyanskoe-predsedatelstvo-2021/G20-ROME-LEADERS-DECLARATION.pdf>

<sup>1890</sup> G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

<sup>1891</sup> World Health Organization. Health financing, WHO (Geneva). Access Date: 7 February 2023.

[https://www.who.int/health\\_financing/universal\\_coverage\\_definition/en/](https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/)

<sup>1892</sup> Universal Health Coverage, The World Bank (Washington) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/universalhealthcoverage#2>

**Scoring Guidelines**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| -1 | G20 member does not take action on any of the four main issue areas, namely 1) increasing investments in primary healthcare or allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases; 2) engaging the private sector for health financing and delivery; 3) improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; or 4) improving the models for financing universal health coverage (UHC). |
| 0  | G20 member takes action to address one, two or three of the four main issue areas.  |
| +1 | G20 member takes action on all four priority areas.   |

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*Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Argentina: 0**

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 23 January 2023, the Ministry of Health of Argentina and the Ministry of Health of Brazil signed a declaration of intentions to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries in priority areas of health.<sup>1893</sup> The exchange of experiences is foreseen in the bilateral agreement, especially for epidemiological surveillance strategies and public health emergencies. It is also planned to train health professionals and promote technical-scientific exchange for researchers and professionals from research centers, in addition to strengthening the capacity and infrastructure of clinical trials in Latin America.

On 31 January 2023, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti participated in the event “Improving public-private collaboration in healthcare post-pandemic” developed at the Council of the Americas.<sup>1894</sup> The minister emphasized the importance of expanding the national production of medicines, equipment and critical supplies, based on solidarity and cooperation, to generate resilient supply chains, with a long-term perspective and oriented towards regional supply.

On 8 February 2023, Minister Vizzotti participated in a mission of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Medicines Patent Pool and the local industry with the aim of analyzing strategies for research, development and production of new vaccines in the country using messenger RNA technology.<sup>1895</sup>

On 28 February 2023, the Government issued Law 27,553 on Electronic or Digital Prescriptions, which is intended to allow the prescription and dispensing of medicines, and any other indication, to be prepared and signed at through electronic or digital signatures, in electronic or digital prescriptions, throughout the national territory, and that telehealth care platforms can be used throughout the country, in addition to paper prescriptions with a handwritten signature that remain in full force.<sup>1896</sup>

On 2 March 2023, the Ministry of Health announced that it will increase the resources assigned to the National Health Program for Indigenous Peoples, increasing the amount, by 40 per cent, of the 868

<sup>1893</sup> Note: visit by Minister of Health to Argentina, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/nota-visita-da-ministra-da-saude-a-argentina>.

<sup>1894</sup> In Washington, Vizzotti spoke at the Council of the Americas on strengthening public-private collaboration in healthcare, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 January 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-washington-vizzotti-diserto-en-el-consejo-de-las-americas-sobre-el-fortalecimiento-de-la>.

<sup>1895</sup> Vizzotti led a meeting with the WHO and the local industry within the framework of the "Technology Transfer Hub" for the production of mRNA vaccines, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-encabezo-un-encuentro-con-la-oms-y-la-industrial-local-en-el-marco-del-hub-de>.

<sup>1896</sup> The national government regulated the Law on Electronic or Digital Prescriptions, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-reglamento-la-ley-de-recetas-electronicas-o-digitales>.

scholarships for indigenous health agents from 13 jurisdictions in the country.<sup>1897</sup> With the objective of strengthening the primary health care strategy, this measure reinforces with ARS 28,512,000 the available resources of the Program, which is in charge of the Intercultural Health Coordination. In this way, it is intended to achieve a better response from the health system in the care and monitoring of pathologies, as well as in the prevention of diseases and health promotion, throughout the first level of care.

On 7 March 2023, Minister Vizzotti signed a letter of intent with pharmaceutical associations with the aim of collaborating in expanding the population's access to medicines, guaranteeing the free exercise of the industry in accordance with the respective legal principles and strengthening the national drug policy.<sup>1898</sup>

On 15 March 2023, the Ministry of Health through Resolution 442/2023 published in the Official Gazette, created the Integrated Health History Committee.<sup>1899</sup> One of the main functions of the Committee is to promote the application of the Integrated Health Record (HSI) in health facilities that do not use electronic records or use non-interoperable electronic medical record systems.

On 15 March 2023, Minister Vizzotti met with representatives of the chambers of the pharmaceutical industry to advance the regulation and implementation of Law 27,680 on the Prevention and Control of Resistance to the Antimicrobials.<sup>1900</sup> During the meeting, the progress of the law project was presented; the conditions of sale of all medicinal specialties whose active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) has systemic antimicrobial activity under filed prescription were analyzed; the characteristics of the presentations intended for promotion without commercial value; the concordance of the doses with the intervals and duration of treatment; and the schedules and deadlines for adaptation to the regulations.

On 22 March 2023, Minister Vizzotti, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Daniel Filmu and the president of the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (R+D+i Agency) Fernando Peirano led the launch of a new call at the federal level for Scientific Technological Innovation Projects for Hospital Translational Knowledge Units).<sup>1901</sup> This is an initiative organized together with the R+D+i Agency that aims to strengthen the capacities of knowledge production, training, implementation of results in health services in hospitals.

On 13 April 2023, Argentina received ARS200 million loan to enhance productivity of healthcare system.<sup>1902</sup> The money received will improve medical conditions for people from the lowest-income group of the population, thereby spreading the availability of medical care throughout the country.

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<sup>1897</sup> Health announces increase in the amount of scholarships from the National Health Program for Indigenous Peoples, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-anuncia-aumento-en-el-monto-de-las-becas-del-programa-nacional-de-salud-para-pueblos>.

<sup>1898</sup> Vizzotti signed a letter of intent with pharmaceutical associations to strengthen pharmaceutical services in the country, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-firmo-una-carta-de-intencion-con-asociaciones-farmaceuticas-para-el>.

<sup>1899</sup> New advance in the federal implementation of the Integrated Health History Strategy, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nuevo-avance-en-la-implementacion-federal-de-la-estrategia-de-historia-de-salud-integrada>.

<sup>1900</sup> Vizzotti held a meeting with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry to advance the regulation of the Antimicrobial Resistance Law, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-mantuvo-un-encuentro-con-representantes-de-la-industria-farmaceutica-para-avanzar>.

<sup>1901</sup> Vizzotti, Filmus and Peirano launched a new call for scientific research projects in hospitals and public health services, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-filmus-y-peirano-lanzaron-una-nueva-convocatoria-para-proyectos-de-investigacion>.

<sup>1902</sup> IDB Approves \$200 Million Loan to Bolster Argentina's Healthcare System, Inter' American Development Bank 13 April 2023. Access Date: 21 June 2023 <https://www.iadb.org/en/news/idb-approves-200-million-loan-bolster-argentinas-healthcare-system>

From 21 to 30 May 2023, Argentina took part in the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland and, in particular, Minister Vizzotti, co-hosted an event concerning Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights under the framework of achieving Universal Health Coverage.<sup>1903</sup>

On 24 May 2023, Minister Vizzotti, took part in the conference concerning the topic of health and aftermath of the pandemic 2020-2021.<sup>1904</sup> In particular, the minister publicly shared the Argentinian progress concerning the fight against tuberculosis and antimicrobial resistance and announced a sending of the bill ratifying the World Health Organisation Convention on Tobacco Control.

On 28 June 2023, Argentina received a USD 300 million loan from the World Bank covering the spending on the project “Program for Effective Universal Health Coverage and National Health System Integration” aimed at improvement of quality, availability and coverage of health services.<sup>1905</sup>

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Argentina has taken actions on ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare and improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs and engaged with the private sector; however, no actions and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery were registered yet.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Irina Popova and Victoria Mushina*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 13 February 2023, the Government allocated AUD310 million to promote the primary healthcare and research infrastructure development.<sup>1906</sup> Main spheres of actions include chronic respiratory conditions, maternal health, dementia and cognitive decline, national critical research infrastructure, primary healthcare, etc.

On 15 February 2023, the Government announced a call for applications for state funding in studies on antimicrobial resistance and hospital infections prevention.<sup>1907</sup> The Government allocated AUD6 million to improve understanding of healthcare associated infections in hospitals and develop strategies to reduce hospital infections incidents.

On 16 March 2023, the Government presented the Emerging Priorities and Consumer-Driven Research Initiative that is to be funded under the 2022 Mitochondrial Donation Pilot Program in form of grants.<sup>1908</sup> The initiative is said to help prevent mitochondrial diseases passed on to children by their mothers.

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<sup>1903</sup> The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly will take place from 21 to 30 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's theme is: WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all, UN universal health coverage. Access Date: 21 June 2023 <https://www.uhc2030.org/news-and-events/events/world-health-assembly-2023/>

<sup>1904</sup> Ministers and senior representatives from the Americas call for more equity and solidarity to better address future pandemics, Pan American Health Organization 24 May 2023. Access Date: 21 June 2023 <https://www.paho.org/en/news/24-5-2023-ministers-and-senior-representatives-americas-call-more-equity-and-solidarity-better>

<sup>1905</sup> World Bank: Investments to improve Health, Energy and Infrastructure in Argentina, World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 28 June 2023. Access date: 7 August 2023. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/06/28/inversiones-para-mejorar-la-salud-energia-infraestructura-en-argentina>

<sup>1906</sup> \$310.3 million for research to improve Australians' health, primary health care and research infrastructure, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 13 February 2023. Access Date: 14 April 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/3103-million-for-research-to-improve-australians-health-primary-health-care-and-research-infrastructure?language=en>

<sup>1907</sup> \$6 million for research into antimicrobial resistance and reducing the incidence of hospital infections, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 15 February 2023. Access Date: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/6-million-for-research-into-antimicrobial-resistance-and-reducing-the-incidence-of-hospital-infections?language=en>

<sup>1908</sup> \$15 million for research into mitochondrial disease, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/15-million-for-research-into-mitochondrial-disease?>

On 27 March 2023, the Government presented the National Rural and Remote Nursing Generalist Framework 2023 – 2027.<sup>1909</sup> The framework outlines skills and support needed by practitioners working in targeted locations. The goals of the Government in this respect are to allow rural and remote practitioners to strengthen their skills; guide employers to support medical practitioners to practice with confidence; and empower educators to inform curriculum.

On 17 May 2023, the Government announced that it develops the first National Nursing Workforce Strategy.<sup>1910</sup> The press-release says that “this strategy will set out a vision for the future of nursing in Australia and support nurses to address the health and aged care needs of the Australian community.” The Strategy’s goals includes provision of workforce sustainability; diversity of the profession; workforce planning, etc.

On 1 June 2023, the Government announced its intention to invest AUD50 million in the Medical Research Future Fund.<sup>1911</sup> The allocated sum would be used as to realize the Fund’s Childhood Mental Health Research Plan with the aim of studying the rise of self-harm and eating disorders.

On 5 June 2023, the Government launched public consultations on the Medical Research Future Fund and the Medical Research Endowment Account.<sup>1912</sup> Each year the Government provides AUD1.5 million of support in forms of medical research grants. The current discussion is aimed at improvement of the alignment and coordination between the funds.

On 6 June 2023, the Government started public discussion on the Fourth National Hepatitis B 2023 – 2030 and the Sixth National Hepatitis C Strategy 2023 – 2030.<sup>1913</sup> The Government urges health practitioners to comment on visions, targets and goals of the strategies; priority areas; and priority population groups.

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Australia has taken actions on all four priority areas: ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare; engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery; improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; changing the models of UHC financing.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

## **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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<sup>1909</sup> Release of the National Rural and Remote Nursing Generalist Framework 2023 – 2027, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 27 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/release-of-the-national-rural-and-remote-nursing-generalist-framework-2023-2027?language=en>

<sup>1910</sup> A national nursing workforce strategy for Australia, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/a-national-nursing-workforce-strategy-for-australia?language=en>

<sup>1911</sup> \$50 million for a new childhood mental health research plan, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/50-million-for-a-new-childhood-mental-health-research-plan?language=en>

<sup>1912</sup> Have your say on the Medical Research Future Fund and Medical Research Endowment Account, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/have-your-say-on-the-medical-research-future-fund-and-medical-research-endowment-account?language=en>

<sup>1913</sup> Consultation open for development of the Fourth National Hepatitis B Strategy 2023–2030 and Sixth National Hepatitis C Strategy 2023–2030, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/consultation-open-for-development-of-the-fourth-national-hepatitis-b-strategy-2023-2030-and-sixth-national-hepatitis-c-strategy-2023-2030?language=en>



On 5 December 2022, the Ministry of Health launched the first edition of the Technical Guidance Manual for the Preparation, Analysis and Accountability of Projects of the National Program to Support Institutional Development of the Unified Health System.<sup>1914</sup> The manual is an instrument for guiding and standardizing the performance of its technicians and managers, its foundations and linked public associations, health councils, health entities of recognized excellence, and other actors who work in the program.

On 28 December 2022, the Ministry of Health signed four new contracts through the Department of Informatics of the Unified Health System (SUS) with the aim of offering significant improvements to its technological platforms.<sup>1915</sup>

On 5 January 2023, the Ministry of Health invited managers and health professionals to participate in the ASPAS Study – Situational Assessment of Assistance Protocols of the Unified Health System.<sup>1916</sup> The initiative is aimed at those who work in Specialized Care and Pharmaceutical Assistance. The objective is to identify how the Clinical Protocols and Therapeutic Guidelines are being implemented in practice. Interested parties can register using the form.

On 19 January 2023, Brazil and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) signed a Cooperation Strategy. According to the document, cooperation between Brazil and PAHO is aimed at improving people's health and well-being and expanding access to and coverage of health in an integral and equitable manner, with an emphasis on primary care.<sup>1917</sup> The Cooperation Strategy involves actions such as protecting and promoting the health of the population, centered on people, families and communities, especially those in vulnerable situations, in addition to recovering, improving and strengthening health services and priority programs impacted by the pandemic from Covid-19. The document is also a strategic reference for the process of planning and allocating technical cooperation resources to Brazil.

On 22 January 2023, the Ministry of Health announced its plan to accelerate a recruitment process for the Mais Médicos Program (More Doctors Program) to employ professionals, both trained in Brazil and abroad, to work in the Indigenous Health Districts on a permanent basis.<sup>1918</sup> The More Doctors Program is part of a broad effort by the federal government, with support from states and municipalities, to improve service to users of the Unified Health System. In addition to taking more doctors to regions where there is a shortage or absence of these professionals, the program also provides for more investments in the construction, renovation and expansion of Basic Health Units.

On 23 January 2023, the Ministry of Health of Brazil and the Ministry of Health of Argentina signed a declaration of intentions to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries in priority areas of health.<sup>1919</sup> The exchange of experiences is foreseen in the bilateral agreement, especially for epidemiological surveillance strategies and public health emergencies. It is also planned to train health professionals and

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<sup>1914</sup> Health launches Proadi-SUS Manual, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/dezembro/saude-lanca-manual-do-proadi-sus>.

<sup>1915</sup> Ministry of Health signs four new contracts for the evolution of digital health in 2023, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/dezembro/ministerio-da-saude-assina-quatro-novos-contratos-para-evolucao-da-saude-digital-em-2023>.

<sup>1916</sup> Health registers managers and professionals to evaluate SUS care protocols, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/saude-cadastra-gestores-e-profissionais-para-avaliacao-de-protocolos-assistenciais-do-sus>.

<sup>1917</sup> Brazil-PAHO cooperation strategy foresees goals to strengthen the SUS, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 19 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/estrategia-de-cooperacao-brasil-opas-preve-metas-para-fortalecer-o-sus>.

<sup>1918</sup> Ministry of Health will accelerate recruitment of professionals for indigenous districts, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/ministerio-da-saude-vai-acelerar-recrutamento-de-profissionais-para-distritos-indigenas>.

<sup>1919</sup> Note: visit by Minister of Health to Argentina, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/nota-visita-da-ministra-da-saude-a-argentina>.

promote technical-scientific exchange for researchers and professionals from research centers, in addition to strengthening the capacity and infrastructure of clinical trials in Latin America.

On 30 January 2023, with the aim of strengthening information platforms and digital transformation in the Brazilian health system, the Ministry of Health promoted the Digital Transformation Symposium in SUS.<sup>1920</sup> One of the opening table guidelines was the importance of new technologies to ensure inclusion and reduce inequalities in health, in addition to promoting equity.

On 20 March 2023, the Federal Government announced that Mais Médicos programme will be resumed in Brazil, with the opening of 15,000 new vacancies.<sup>1921</sup> By the end of 2023, 28,000 professionals will be established throughout the country, mainly in areas of extreme poverty. With this, more than 96 million Brazilians will have the guarantee of medical care in primary care, the gateway to the SUS.

On 6 April 2023, the creation of the Executive Group of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex was announced.<sup>1922</sup> With the expectation of producing, in up to ten years, 70 per cent of the needs of the SUS in medicines, equipment, vaccines and other medical materials, the federal government resumes the agenda aimed at strengthening the complex.

On 8 May 2023, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva sanctioned bill n° 8131/2017 that includes the National Oral Health Policy, also known as Smiling Brazil, in the Organic Law of Health.<sup>1923</sup> From now on, oral health becomes a right of all Brazilians guaranteed by law. The act recognizes the importance of access to dental care in the SUS and reinforces the Federal Government's commitment to comprehensive care for the Brazilian population.

On 12 May 2023, President Lula da Silva sanctioned Bill No. 14,581, which opens a special credit of BRL7.3 billion in the National Health Fund budget to guarantee states and municipalities the payment of the national minimum wage for nursing workers.<sup>1924</sup>

On 12 May 2023, the Federal Government announced that mental health care would be expanded in the SUS.<sup>1925</sup> BRL21.3 million will be allocated per year to care for people with suffering or mental disorders or with care needs resulting from the use of alcohol and other drugs.

On 19 May 2023, the Ministry of Health allocated BRL303.8 million to strengthen and expand services provided by the SUS in Bahia.<sup>1926</sup> Resources are intended to complement the cost of procedures in units such as maternity wards, hospitals and polyclinics, increasing the financial ceiling for medium and high

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<sup>1920</sup> Seminar discussed digital transformation in SUS and how new technologies can reach the population, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/seminario-discutiu-transformacao-digital-no-sus-e-como-novas-tecnologias-podem-alcancar-a-populacao>.

<sup>1921</sup> Federal Government announces the resumption of the Mais Médicos Program, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 20 March 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/governo-federal-anuncia-a-retomada-do-programa-mais-medicos>.

<sup>1922</sup> Industrial strengthening of health, UNA-SUS and strategic planning were themes of the Executive Secretariat in recent days, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/fortalecimento-industrial-da-saude-una-sus-e-planejamento-estrategico-foram-temas-da-secretaria-executiva-nos-ultimos-dias>.

<sup>1923</sup> President Lula signs a law that guarantees oral health to all Brazilians through the SUS, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 8 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/presidente-lula-sanciona-lei-que-garante-saude-bucal-a-todos-os-brasileiros-pelo-sus>.

<sup>1924</sup> President Lula signs a law that opens credit of R\$7.3 billion for the Nursing Floor, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/presidente-lula-sanciona-lei-que-abre-credito-de-r-7-3-bi-para-o-piso-da-enfermagem>.

<sup>1925</sup> Ministry of Health invests more than R\$ 21 million to expand mental health network in SUS, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/ministerio-da-saude-investe-mais-de-r-21-milhoes-para-ampliar-rede-de-saude-mental-no-sus>.

<sup>1926</sup> Ministry of Health announces investments to strengthen SUS in Bahia, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 19 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/ministerio-da-saude-anuncia-investimentos-para-fortalecimento-do-sus-na-bahia>.

complexity in the state. In addition to this transfer, another BRL26 million will be invested in oncology services.

On 5 June 2023, Ministry of Health participated in the 1st Meeting on Universalization of Primary Health Care - Sanitary Reform, in Viña del Mar, Chile.<sup>1927</sup> The event, promoted by the Chilean Ministry of Health, sought to exchange experiences to develop fundamental theoretical and practical tools for the process of installing universal primary health care.

On 7 June 2023, the Federal Government resumed “Farmácia Popular do Brasil” programme with the expansion of the offer of free medicines and the accreditation of new units in more vulnerable municipalities.<sup>1928</sup> Bolsa Família beneficiaries will be able to receive the 40 medications available in the program for free. The initiative expands access to pharmaceutical assistance to 55 million Brazilians.

On 7 June 2023, the Ministry of Health and UNDP launched public notice to invest BRL4.5 million in projects of Civil Society Organizations. Entries were opened for the selection of proposals from Civil Society Organizations for the execution of health communication projects aimed at key and priority populations for HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections.<sup>1929</sup> BRL4.5 million will be invested. The intention is to select up to 38 projects from all regions of Brazil.

On 13 June 2023, the Ministry of Health released resources to reduce the queue for surgeries in the SUS in the three states that were awaiting technical analysis: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Mato Grosso do Sul.<sup>1930</sup> The forecast is that five states will reduce the queue by 100 percent: Tocantins, Sergipe, Piauí, Paraíba and Mato Grosso do Sul. In 2023, the program will total BRL600 million in investment. Of this total, BRL200 million has already been allocated to support states in actions to reduce queues.

Brazil has taken actions on ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare and improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; however, no actions on changing of the models of UHC financing, engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery were registered yet.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

## **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery which builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 18 November 2022, Minister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos announced a total investment of over CAD4.7 million in the Health System Impact Fellowship program, which provides talented PhD trainees and postdoctoral researchers a unique opportunity to work directly within health organizations to tackle

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<sup>1927</sup> At an event in Chile, Brazil shares experiences of SUS primary care as an international reference, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/em-evento-no-chile-brasil-compartilha-experiencias-da-atencao-primaria-do-sus-como-referencia-internacional>.

<sup>1928</sup> Beneficiaries of Bolsa Família will have free access to all medicines from Farmácia Popular, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/beneficiarios-do-bolsa-familia-terao-acesso-gratuito-a-todos-os-medicamentos-do-farmacia-popular>.

<sup>1929</sup> Ministry of Health and UNDP launch public notice to invest BRL 4.5 million in projects of Civil Society Organizations, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/ministerio-da-saude-e-pnud-lancam-edital-para-investir-r-4-5-milhoes-em-projetos-de-organizacao-da-sociedade-civil>.

<sup>1930</sup> All Brazilian states received resources from the Ministry of Health to reduce the waiting list for surgeries in the SUS. check the list, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/todos-os-estados-brasileiros-receberam-recursos-do-ministerio-da-saude-para-reduzir-fila-de-espera-por-cirurgias-no-sus-confira-a-lista>.

real-world health system challenges.<sup>1931</sup> This funding will support 18 PhD students and 25 postdoctoral fellows who are embedded in 30 health organizations and connected to 16 universities. Their research spans a wide range of health care priorities, from improving transitions in care and supporting the wellbeing of our health workforce to improving health care in rural areas and innovating long-term care. Their work will help us to continue improving the delivery of equitable health care in Canada.

On 1 December 2022, Minister Duclos and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Carolyn Benne announced CAD46.9 million in funding through the HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund and the Harm Reduction Fund.<sup>1932</sup> This funding will be directed towards 18 projects to support the work of community-based organizations addressing HIV, hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections.

On 8 December 2022, Minister Duclos announced a combined investment of more than CAD80 million over five years from the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec, and provincial partners to support the ongoing work of patient-oriented research in the province through its SPOR Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Unit.<sup>1933</sup> The SPOR SUPPORT Unit connects research with patient needs so that evidence-based solutions can be applied to health care.

On 17 January 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister of Health and Wellness for Prince Edward Island Ernie Hudson highlighted further progress made under the Improving Affordable Access to Prescriptions Drugs Program to make it easier for Islanders to access and afford medications.<sup>1934</sup>

On 26 January 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that CAD500,000 will be awarded to a Canadian small business, iFood Packaging Systems Corporation (Summerland, British Columbia) through the Innovative Solutions Canada program's phase 2 prototype development challenge.<sup>1935</sup> As methyl bromide, which is the current phytosanitary treatment method to control plant pests and pathogens, gets phased out due to its ozone depleting properties, this funding will be used to develop an innovative phytosanitary treatment solution that is more eco-friendly.

On 7 December 2023, Minister Duclos announced an investment of CAD47 million through the Strategic Innovation Fund to support the MEDTEQ+'s CAD154 million envisAGE Network, established with network co-lead AGE-WELL (a national network that develops technology and services for healthy aging).<sup>1936</sup> This contribution will bring together industry, health experts and investors to launch up to 100

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<sup>1931</sup> Government of Canada invests more than CAD4.7M to give next generation of health researchers hands-on experience tackling health system challenges, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-supports-community-based-projects-addressing-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-other-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections.html>

<sup>1932</sup> Government of Canada supports community-based projects addressing HIV, Hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-supports-community-based-projects-addressing-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-other-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections.html>

<sup>1933</sup> The Governments of Canada and Quebec and provincial partners renew research investment that puts patients' needs first, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2022/12/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-provincial-partners-renew-research-investment-that-puts-patients-needs-first.html>

<sup>1934</sup> Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island Continue Work to Improve Access to Medications for Island Residents, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 January 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/01/governments-of-canada-and-prince-edward-island-continue-work-to-improve-access-to-medications-for-island-residents.html>

<sup>1935</sup> Government of Canada invests in Canadian innovators developing solutions to improve food safety and plant health, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 January 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-medteq-to-fund-groundbreaking-technologies-that-will-benefit-canadas-seniors-and-their-families.html>

<sup>1936</sup> Government of Canada invests in MEDTEQ+ to fund groundbreaking technologies that will benefit Canada's seniors and their families, Government of Canada (Québec) 7 December 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-medteq-to-fund-groundbreaking-technologies-that-will-benefit-canadas-seniors-and-their-families.html>

projects to scale up and commercialize technologies, developed by small and medium-sized enterprises, that are ready for national and global market adoption.

On 7 February 2023, the Government announced an investment of CAD198.6 billion over 10 years, including CAD46.2 billion in new funding for provinces and territories to improve health care services for Canadians.<sup>1937</sup> This funding includes an immediate, unconditional CAD2 billion Canada Health Transfer top-up to address immediate pressures on the health care system.

On 17 February 2023, Minister Duclos tabled the 2021-2022 Canada Health Act Annual Report in Parliament.<sup>1938</sup> This tabling follows the recent announcement of the federal government's plan to invest CAD198.6 billion over 10 years, including CAD48.7 billion in new funding, to improve health care services for Canadians.

On 18 February 2023, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health Adam van Koevorden announced an investment of over CAD252,000 through the Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund to support a project in Prince Edward Island to promote healthy behaviours.<sup>1939</sup>

On 24 February 2023, the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announced an agreement in principle for a shared plan that would invest CAD6.74 billion in federal funding over 10 years in Manitoba, including CAD1.22 billion for a new bilateral agreement focusing on the shared health care priorities and CAD72 million through the immediate, one-time CHT top-up to address urgent needs, especially in pediatric hospitals and emergency rooms, and long wait times for surgeries.<sup>1940</sup>

On 27 February 2023, the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta are taking the next step by announcing an agreement in principle for a shared plan that will invest CAD24.18 billion in federal funding over 10 years in Alberta, including CAD2.92 billion for a new bilateral agreement focusing on the shared health care priorities and CAD233 million through the immediate, one-time CHT top-up to address urgent needs, especially in pediatric hospitals and emergency rooms, and long wait times for surgeries.<sup>1941</sup>

On 1 March 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister of Seniors Kamal Khara reiterated the Government's commitment to help ensure quality, safe and respectful care for seniors across Canada.<sup>1942</sup> This follows 31 January 2023 release of two independent standards from the Health Standards Organization, which provide guidance for delivering services that are safe, reliable and centred on residents' needs.

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<sup>1937</sup> The Government of Canada and British Columbia Reach Agreement in Principle to Improve Health Services for Canadians, Government of Canada (Québec) 1 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/02/the-government-of-canada-and-british-columbia-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>1938</sup> Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos tables the 2021-22 *Canada Health Act Annual Report* in Parliament, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/02/health-minister-jean-yves-duclos-tables-the-2021-22-canada-health-act-annual-report-in-parliament.html>

<sup>1939</sup> Government of Canada funding to improve healthy living for priority populations in PEI, Government of Canada (Prince Edward Island) 18 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/02/government-of-canada-funding-to-improve-healthy-living-for-priority-populations-in-pei.html>

<sup>1940</sup> The Government of Canada and Manitoba Reach Agreement in Principle to Improve Health Services for Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/02/the-government-of-canada-and-manitoba-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>1941</sup> The Government of Canada and Alberta Reach Agreement in Principle to Improve Health Services for Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/02/the-government-of-canada-and-alberta-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>1942</sup> Government of Canada supports seniors in Long Term Care by helping to ensure they access safe and quality care, Government of Canada (Mississauga) 1 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canadasupports-seniors-in-long-term-care-by-helping-to-ensure-they-access-safe-and-quality-care.html>

On 1 March 2023, the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia are taking the next step by announcing an agreement in principle for a shared plan that will invest CAD27.47 billion in federal funding over 10 years in British Columbia including CAD3.32 billion for a new bilateral agreement focusing on the shared health care priorities and CAD273 million through the immediate, one-time top-up to address urgent needs, especially in pediatric hospitals and emergency rooms, and long wait times for surgeries.<sup>1943</sup>

On 3 March 2023, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown Sean Casey, Member of Parliament for Malpeque Heath MacDonald, and Member of Parliament for Egmont Robert J. Morrissey on behalf of Minister Duclos, and Minister Hudson announced expanded provincial drug coverage that will reduce the copay eligible Islanders spend on many prescription medicines, expand access to the Catastrophic Drug Program and increase access to the provincial High Cost Drug Program.<sup>1944</sup>

On 9 March 2023, Minister Duclos announced a CAD20 million investment from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support a pan-Canadian Post COVID-19 Condition Research Network called Long COVID Web, and a CAD9 million investment from the Public Health Agency of Canada to Cochrane Canada and GRADE centres at McMaster University to develop clinical practice guidelines on PCC.<sup>1945</sup>

On 9 March 2023, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety was hosting a free webinar, Climate Change: Workplace Impacts to explore how climate change affects both our physical and mental health and safety in the workplace. The webinar was intended for anyone interested in understanding the connection between climate change and the world of work, including health and safety professionals and committee members, managers, supervisors, and employers.<sup>1946</sup>

On 10 March 2023, Minister Duclos announced mandatory Canada Health Transfer deductions totalling over CAD82 million in respect of patient charges levied during 2020-21 for medically necessary services that should be accessible to patients at no cost. He also announced next steps to curb private medically necessary health care being paid out of pocket by Canadians, with a focus on virtual care and other medically necessary services that Canadians are being asked to pay for.<sup>1947</sup>

On 14 March 2023, Minister Bennett announced over CAD7 million in federal funding for 8 projects in Ontario through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program. The funding announced would allow Ontarians to access greater prevention, harm reduction and treatment services including access to safer supply programs. This includes people disproportionately affected by problematic substance use or who face barriers accessing services such as youth, equity-deserving, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.<sup>1948</sup>

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<sup>1943</sup> The Government of Canada and British Columbia Reach Agreement in Principle to Improve Health Services for Canadians, Government of Canada (Québec) 1 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/02/the-government-of-canada-and-british-columbia-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>1944</sup> Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island Continue Work to Save Islanders Millions Under Expanded Coverage, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/governments-of-canada-and-prince-edward-island-continue-work-to-save-islanders-millions-under-expanded-coverage.html>

<sup>1945</sup> Government of Canada invests new funding for post COVID-19 condition, in line with recommendations from the Chief Science Advisor's report, Government of Canada (Québec) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-invests-new-funding-for-post-covid-19-condition-in-line-with-recommendations-from-the-chief-science-advisors-report.html>

<sup>1946</sup> Free Webinar Explores How Climate Change Affects the Workplace, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) (Hamilton, ON) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 [https://www.ccohs.ca/newsroom/news\\_releases/climateChange\\_09March2023.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/newsroom/news_releases/climateChange_09March2023.html)

<sup>1947</sup> Government of Canada Announces Deductions and Next Steps to Curb Private Health Care Paid Out-of-Pocket, Government of Canada (Québec) 10 March 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-announces-deductions-and-next-steps-to-curb-private-health-care-paid-out-of-pocket.html>

<sup>1948</sup> Government of Canada announces over CAD7 million to help address harms related to substance use in Ontario, Health Canada (Toronto) 14 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-announces-over-7-million-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-ontario.html>

On 15 March 2023, Minister of Public Safety and Member of Parliament for Eglinton—Lawrence Marco Mendicino announced a CAD30 million investment to continue supporting the implementation of Canada’s National Dementia Strategy. This investment will be provided to the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation to help accelerate innovation in aging and brain health so that older adults can age safely in the setting of their choice while maintaining their cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being.<sup>1949</sup>

On 15 March 2023, Minister Bennett announced over CAD13 million in federal funding for 11 projects in the Prairies, Northwest Territories and Yukon through Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program. The funding announced would allow people living in the Prairies, Northwest Territories and Yukon to access greater prevention, harm reduction and treatment services including access to safer supply programs. This included people disproportionately affected by problematic substance use or who face barriers accessing services such as youth, equity-deserving, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.<sup>1950</sup>

On 17 March 2023, Minister Bennett announced over CAD3 million in federal funding for 3 projects in British Columbia through Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program. The funding announced would allow people living in British Columbia to access greater prevention, harm reduction and treatment services including access to safer supply programs. This included people disproportionately affected by problematic substance use or who face barriers accessing services such as youth, equity-deserving, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.<sup>1951</sup>

On 22 March 2023, Minister Duclos announced measures in support of the first-ever National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases, with an investment of up to CAD1.5 billion over three years. Through this, we will help increase access to, and affordability of, effective drugs for rare diseases to improve the health of patients across Canada, including children. As part of this overall investment, the Government of Canada will make available up to CAD1.4 billion to provinces and territories through bilateral agreements. This funding will help provinces and territories improve access to new and emerging drugs, as well as support enhanced access to existing drugs, early diagnosis, and screening for rare diseases. This will help patients with rare diseases, including children, have access to treatments as early as possible, for better quality of life.<sup>1952</sup>

On 27 March 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister Bennett released the Model Practice Standard for MAID. The Model Practice Standard and accompanying documents would help clinicians align their practice with clear guidance and would assist regulators to ensure the protection of the public in the context of complex cases, including where the person’s sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.<sup>1953</sup>

On 23 May 2023, Minister Duclos, announced more than CAD5.4 million in funding over five years to Université Laurentienne de Sudbury, Collège Boréal, Université de Hearst and the Réseau du mieux-être

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<sup>1949</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to help accelerate innovation in aging and brain health, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-accelerate-innovation-and-research-in-aging-and-brain-health.html>

<sup>1950</sup> Government of Canada announces over CAD13 million to help address harms related to substance use in the Prairies, Northwest Territories and Yukon, Health Canada (Winnipeg, Manitoba) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-announces-over-13-million-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-the-prairies-northwest-territories-and-yukon.html>

<sup>1951</sup> Government of Canada announces over CAD3 million to help address harms related to substance use in British Columbia, Health Canada (British Columbia) 17 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-announces-over-3-million-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-british-columbia.html>

<sup>1952</sup> Government of Canada improves access to affordable and effective drugs for rare diseases, Government of Canada (Québec) 22 March 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-improves-access-to-affordable-and-effective-drugs-for-rare-diseases.html>

<sup>1953</sup> Government of Canada Releases the Model Practice Standard for Medical Assistance in Dying to Ensure Consistent and Safe Practice in Canada, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-releases-the-model-practice-standard-for-medical-assistance-in-dying-to-ensure-consistent-and-safe-practice-in-canada.html>

Francophone du Nord de l'Ontario.<sup>1954</sup> The OLPH supports recipients whose projects will improve access to health services for Francophones living in a minority setting in Northern Ontario and promote the active offer of health services in French. This investment reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to meet the highest standard of accessibility possible to ensure every Canadian has access to the health services in the language of their choice, when and where they need them.

On 26 May 2023, Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories Michael McLeod announced CAD1 million, through the HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund, to support FOXY, a community-based organization based in Yellowknife, addressing HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted blood-borne illnesses (STBBI).<sup>1955</sup> The program aims to improve access to effective STBBI prevention, testing and treatment by providing culturally safe and stigma-free education and training through school and community-based workshops in the North.

On 8 June 2023, Minister Duclos announced up to CAD500,000 in additional funding to the Task Force on Preventive Health Care to help expedite the update of the breast cancer screening guideline.<sup>1956</sup> The Task Force, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is an independent arms-length body of 15 primary care and prevention experts. In addition to the funding announced today, PHAC also intends to host a knowledge exchange event to bring together experts, partners, those with lived experiences, and stakeholders.

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery which builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Canada has taken action on all four priority areas: ramp up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare; engage the private sector and unlock new models for health financing and delivery; improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; change the models of UHC financing.

Thus Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nikita Shilikov*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 6 December 2022, the Government announced detailed measures to promote the role of information technology in the development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).<sup>1957</sup> According to the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, by 2025 a TCM information system that works in coordination with China's medical and healthcare mechanism will be established. The plan also provides for the establishment of smart TCM hospitals around the country and the promotion of online TCM pharmacies and medical services. Moreover, flexible inter-hospital patient transfer, mutual recognition and sharing of lab and examination reports and other services will be enhanced among TCM hospitals.

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<sup>1954</sup> Government of Canada Improves Access to Health Services for Official Language Minority Communities, The Canadian Government 23 May 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-improves-access-to-health-services-for-official-language-minority-communities.html>

<sup>1955</sup> Government of Canada supports community-based projects addressing HIV, Hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, The Canadian Government 26 May 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-supports-community-based-projects-addressing-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-other-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections1.html>

<sup>1956</sup> Government of Canada to help advance work on breast cancer screening, The Canadian Government 8 June 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-to-help-advance-work-on-breast-cancer-screening.html>

<sup>1957</sup> China releases plan to promote online TCM services, State Council of China (Beijing) 6 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202212/06/content\\_WS638ee0b1c6d0a757729e402f.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202212/06/content_WS638ee0b1c6d0a757729e402f.html).



On 22 December 2022, several medical and health platforms were launched under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to provide members of the group with better health services.<sup>1958</sup> During a forum held by the SCO hospital alliance in Wuhan, three SCO telemedicine cooperation platform centers were launched in Hubei, Gansu and Xinjiang. Besides, four online platforms under the SCO hospital alliance were launched, focusing on the hepatobiliary and pancreatic specialties, gynecology, internet hospitals, and hospital management.

On 17 January 2023, the Ministry of Finance announced an increased government spending for medical treatment subsidies, temporary allowances of medical personnel, vaccines and vaccination, and medical capacity improvement.<sup>1959</sup> In addition, more resources will be channeled to the treatment of severe Covid-19 cases in county-level hospitals, and emergency treatment and critical care in rural areas.

In February 2023, a guideline on the development of the healthcare system in rural areas via deepening reforms was released by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, highlighting the overall planning of resources at the county level as well as the medical personnel and medical insurance in rural areas.<sup>1960</sup>

On 8 April 2023, construction of a China-Bangladesh joint venture medical college and hospital started in northern Bangladesh.<sup>1961</sup> Laying the foundation stone for North Point Medical College and Hospital, Bangladeshi Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi expressed hope that the hospital would be an exemplary health sector project, benefiting people from the country and in the region. With an investment of USD, this medical college and hospital is one of the largest health sector foreign investment projects in Bangladesh.

On 18-20 April 2023, a three-day launch meeting for a public welfare project to help improve healthcare services for tuberculosis patients was held in Changsha, Hunan province, sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>1962</sup> At the meeting, experts from the working group explained in detail the implementation plan with corresponding work requirements and shared their project management experience. Participants then gave suggestions after a full discussion.

On 18-19 May 2023, President Xi Jinping, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.K.Tokaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic S.N. Japarov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rahmon, President of Turkmenistan S.G. Berdimuhamedov and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev held the first Central Asia-China Summit in Xi'an.<sup>1963</sup> In the declaration the leaders expressed their interest in deepening cooperation in the field of healthcare, and promoting the construction of centers of traditional Chinese medicine, including in the field of growing and processing medicinal plants to form the "Silk Road of Health."

China has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals. China has taken actions on ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare and improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; however, no actions on

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<sup>1958</sup> New platforms launched to enhance SCO health cooperation, State Council Information Office of China (Beijing) 23 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. [http://english.scio.gov.cn/international/exchanges/2022-12/23/content\\_85023641.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/international/exchanges/2022-12/23/content_85023641.htm).

<sup>1959</sup> China to ensure funding for new-phase COVID response, State Council of China (Beijing) 17 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/17/content\\_WS63c65487c6d0a757729e5a42.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/17/content_WS63c65487c6d0a757729e5a42.html).

<sup>1960</sup> China committed to achieving health for all, Xinhua (Beijing) 7 April 2023. Access date: 11 April 2023.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202304/07/content\\_WS6430211ac6d03ffcca6ec1f1.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202304/07/content_WS6430211ac6d03ffcca6ec1f1.html).

<sup>1961</sup> Foundation stone laid for Sino-Bangladesh joint venture hospital, medical college, Belt and Road Portal of Chinese Government (Beijing) 9 April 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/qyww/rdxw/313395.htm>.

<sup>1962</sup> China CDC works to improve tuberculosis healthcare, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Beijing) 5 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. [https://en.chinacdc.cn/news/latest/202305/t20230506\\_265788.html](https://en.chinacdc.cn/news/latest/202305/t20230506_265788.html).

<sup>1963</sup> Xi'an Declaration of the China-Central Asia Summit, News Central Asia, (Karachi) 20 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2023/05/20/xian-declaration-of-the-china-central-asia-summit/>.

changing of the models of UHC financing, engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery were registered yet.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 8 December 2022, President Emmanuel Macron announced that the access to male condoms would be free in the pharmacy for young people under 26 years of age as of 1 January 2023.<sup>1964</sup> The announcement was made in the margin of the participation of the President of the Republic at a session of the territorial Council of the national Reform (CNR) Health in Fontaine-le-Comte (Vienna).

On 10 March 2023, the Government adopted its Interministerial Strategy of Mobilization Against Addictive behaviors 2023-2027, which gives the strategic direction of the action in the coming years.<sup>1965</sup> The Government intends to take action to protect against the risk of alcohol, tobacco or drugs abuse, and also the misuse of gambling and chance, or digital tools.

On 27 April 2023, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention launch a recall campaign for particularly fragile people to maintain a sufficient level of protection against severe forms of COVID-19.<sup>1966</sup> The persons affected by this recall are persons aged 80 and over, immunocompromised persons, residents of nursing homes and USLDs, regardless of their age, people at very high risk of severe disease according to each individual medical situation and as part of a decision shared with the health care team.

On 17 May 2023, Minister of Health and Prevention François Braun and Minister of Solidarity, Autonomy and People with Disabilities Jean-Christophe Combe launched the new roadmap for digital health 2023-2027, Putting digital technology at the service of health.<sup>1967</sup> The roadmap is based on respect for cardinal values: ethics, sovereignty, and sustainability. It is a real collective action program organized around 4 main points (Prevention, Care, Access to Health, Enabling Framework) and 18 priorities themselves divided into 65 concrete, measurable objectives, with a date and a clearly identified bearer.

On 13 July 2023, Minister for Territorial Organization and Health Professions Agnes Firmin Le Bodo has unveiled plan “ Pour des solutions concrètes d'accès aux soins dans les territoires “. <sup>1968</sup> It aims to give access to care to more than 2 million additional French people throughout the country. The main measures developed based on feedback from the field, particularly during meetings of the National Council for Refoundation, aim to meet the specific health needs of each territory.

France has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. France has taken action to form new framework of developing national healthcare system by improving education, broadening social services,

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<sup>1964</sup> Free condoms in pharmacies for people under 26, Government of France (Paris) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 10 April 2023 <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/les-preservatifs-accessibles-gratuitement-en-pharmacie-pour-les-18-25-ans>

<sup>1965</sup> Interministerial strategy for mobilization against addictive behavior 2023-2027, Government of France (Paris) 10 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023 <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/strategie-interministerielle-de-mobilisation-contre-les-conduites-addictives-2023-2027>

<sup>1966</sup> Une campagne de rappel contre le Covid-19 du 27 avril au 16 juin 2023 pour les plus fragiles, Ministry of Health and Prevention 27 April 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/une-campagne-de-rappel-contre-le-covid-19-du-27-avril-au-16-juin-2023-pour-les>

<sup>1967</sup> Lancement de la Feuille de route de numérique en santé 2023-2027, Ministry of Health and Prevention 17 May 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-la-feuille-de-route-du-numerique-en-sante-2023-2027>

<sup>1968</sup> Améliorer l'accès aux soins dans les territoires, The Government of France (Paris) 13 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 August 2023. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/ameliorer-lacces-aux-soins-dans-les-territoires>

including fighting with addictive behavior and creating jobs but lacks measures aimed at reforming and developing existing financial mechanisms.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nikita Shilikov*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On December 2022, Germany launched the second round of grants for products relevant for Covid-19 vaccine production, administration and management along with patients' clinical management under the programme component Joint Action "Support Towards Industrialisation and the Productive Sectors."<sup>1969</sup> Co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, it aims to strengthen the medical and pharmaceutical value chains in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Unlike the traditional development cooperation focused on public sector engagement, this initiative is aimed at fostering partnerships and innovative ways of cooperation with the private sector to jointly tackle regional challenges. 10 private sector entities from across five SADC member states had been selected to receive financial grants and capacity development support.

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Germany has taken actions on all four priority areas: ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare; engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery; improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; changing the models of UHC financing.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 28 November 2022, Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh inaugurated the initiative for procurement, operation and maintenance of ten Mobile Health Clinics at Sadar Hospital, Aarah, Bhojpur District Bihar.<sup>1970</sup> The total cost of the project is INR120 million which will facilitate operational expenditure for three years for smooth functioning of the project.

On 29 December 2022, the National Health Authority announced the release of the beta version of a lightweight, robust, and a Hospital Management Information System compliant with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).<sup>1971</sup> This solution is envisioned to provide a digital platform for healthcare providers, particularly focusing on private clinics and small health facilities.

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<sup>1969</sup> Strengthening health value chains by partnering with the private sector in the SADC region, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 27 April 2023.

<https://health.bmz.de/stories/strengthening-health-value-chains-by-partnering-with-the-private-sector-in-the-sadc-region>.

<sup>1970</sup> Shri R.K Singh inaugurates 10 Mobile Health Clinics 'Doctor Apke Dwar' under REC's CSR project in Bihar, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1879602>.

<sup>1971</sup> NHA is launching a lightweight HMIS and inviting healthcare providers to participate in its beta-testing, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 29 December 2022. Access date: 11 April 2023.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1887353>.

On 5 January 2023, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya met with 150 representatives of private medical colleges.<sup>1972</sup> Highlighting the need to transform and regulate medical education, Minister Mandaviya sought the partnership of Medical Colleges for strong medical education. He also suggested for reforms like biometrics attendance in medical institutions. He also sought a partnership between government and private medical colleges for providing superior medical education.

On 9 January 2023, the National Health Authority announced a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.<sup>1973</sup> The new initiative will introduce the concept of value-based care, where payment is outcome based and providers are rewarded according to the quality of the treatment delivered. Under the new model, the providers will be rewarded for helping the patients improve their health, which consequently will reduce the effects of disease in the population in the long term.

On 13 January 2023, Minister Mandaviya chaired the Health Ministers' virtual session of "Voice of Global South Summit – 2023."<sup>1974</sup> He commended India's efforts in providing training to support countries in terms of capacity building of their healthcare professionals. The training included Covid-19 testing, clinical practices, case management, vaccine development and delivery. India also shared its medical expertise by dispatching Rapid Response Teams to Kuwait and Maldives. Minister Mandaviya also stated that under the soon to be launched Heal in India initiative, India aims to provide its health infrastructure for patients abroad and make it a global hub for healthcare. He mentioned that India affirms to work with partners in the Global South to harness the potential of traditional medicine to promote health, wellness and people-centric care.

On 3 March 2023, the Government and the World Bank signed two complementary loans of USD500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector development.<sup>1975</sup> Through this combined financing of USD1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country. In addition to the national level interventions, one of the loans will prioritize health service delivery in seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

On 26 April 2023, the Government approved establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in co-location with existing medical colleges.<sup>1976</sup> The initiative aims to boost number of Nursing professionals and in turn, provide quality, affordable and equitable nursing education in country. Co-location of Nursing Colleges with existing Medical Colleges will allow optimal utilization of existing infrastructure, skill labs, clinical facilities, and faculty.

On 17 May 2023, Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya releases Annual Capacity Building Plan for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Capacity Building Plans act as the 'Highway' for focussed output

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<sup>1972</sup> Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya interacts with 150 representatives of private medical colleges in the presence of Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1888962>.

<sup>1973</sup> National Health Authority (NHA) introduces new system to measure and grade performance of hospitals empaneled under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1889730>.

<sup>1974</sup> Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya chairs Health Ministers' virtual Session of "Voice of Global South Summit – 2023" titled: Cooperation to build resilient healthcare systems, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 13 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1891014>.

<sup>1975</sup> World Bank Signs a \$1 Billion Program to Support India's Health Sector for Pandemic Preparedness and Enhanced Health Service Delivery, The World Bank (New Delhi) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/03/03/world-bank-signs-a-1-billion-program-to-support-india-s-health-sector-for-pandemic-preparedness-and-enhanced-health-serv>.

<sup>1976</sup> Cabinet approves establishment of 157 new nursing colleges at a cost of Rs. 1570 crores in co-location with existing medical colleges, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 26 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1919987>.

by a competent workforce; provide a ‘work culture’ to the organisation; and streamline efforts of individuals to work with as team with shared goals and vision.<sup>1977</sup>

On 17 May 2023, the Government approved signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Health Research and the World Health Organization on Assistive Technology.<sup>1978</sup> This collaboration aims to work towards drawing global attention toward access to assistive technology, fostering research and innovation and developing and disseminating appropriate training programmes.

On 8 June 2023, the Health Ministry organized a webinar on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases to empower Medical Officers working in Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals.<sup>1979</sup> The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases of the Union health Ministry is a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in India. Through strategic interventions and collaborations, the program aims to promote preventive measures, ensure early detection, and provide effective management of non-communicable diseases, improving the overall health and well-being of the population.

India has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. India has taken actions on affordable, quality primary healthcare and improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs and engaged with the private sector; however, no actions and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery were registered yet.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 17 November 2022, the Government held a ground-breaking ceremony of mother and child health service buildings in six vertical hospitals.<sup>1980</sup> The project is backed up by Islamic Development Bank and is aimed to increase the availability, accessibility, and quality of maternal and child health services via Indonesian UHC program – JKN.

On 1 December 2022, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin announced that the Ministry would shift its funding to revitalize healthcare facilities, support health promotion and disease prevention programs.<sup>1981</sup> The main goal of the Ministry is to improve medical restructuring hospitals to enhance the quality of medical services provided. Minister Sadikin also highlighted the priority of developing human resources in the

<sup>1977</sup> Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya releases Annual Capacity Building Plan for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1924898>.

<sup>1978</sup> Cabinet approves signing of Project Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Health Research (DHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Assistive Technology, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1924778>.

<sup>1979</sup> Health Ministry organizes webinar on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases (NAFLDs) to empower Medical Officers posted in Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930734>.

<sup>1980</sup> Indonesia’s Finance Minister and Health Minister Collaborate with IsDB to Strengthen National Healthcare System Through Infrastructure Investment in Six Vertical Integrated Services Hospitals, Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.isdb.org/news/indonesias-finance-minister-and-health-minister-collaborate-with-isdb-to-strengthen-national-healthcare-system-through-infrastructure-investment-in-six-vertical-integrated-services-hospitals>

<sup>1981</sup> The Government Prioritizes Increasing the Quality of Health Services in 2023, Cabinet Secretariat Of The Republic Of Indonesia (Jakarta) 01 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://setkab.go.id/pemerintah-prioritaskan-peningkatan-kualitas-layanan-kesehatan-di-tahun-2023/>

healthcare sector and stated that significant funding would be distributed through ministries and the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education for distributing scholarships to healthcare workers.

On 2 February 2023, Deputy Minister of Health Dante Saksono Harbuwono declared health technology innovation as an important aspect in building national health resilience.<sup>1982</sup> He also stressed the importance of university education in strengthening health sector. He recommended universities to expand cooperation with health facilities and private stakeholders of the healthcare sector.

On 5 February 2023, the Association of Indonesian Private Medical Faculties expressed its support towards the government programs aimed to increase the number of doctors and specialists by enabling universities to increase their quota for admission of additional enrollees to bachelor medicine programs by 20 per cent – for “A” accredited programs, and by 10 per cent – for programs with “B” accredited programs.<sup>1983</sup>

On 23 February 2023, the Indonesia Investment Authority and the Silk Road Fund announced the completion of investment transactions in PT Kimia Farma Tbk and PT Kimia Farma Apotek as the two parties’ first investment in the Indonesian healthcare industry.<sup>1984</sup> This business counts towards fulfilment of the government’s policy in the health sector to improve the quality of health services for the community by increasing investments in this field.

On 14 March 2023, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (BPJS Kesehatan) claimed that 252.17 million people, or 90.79 per cent of the total population, were covered by the National Health Insurance-Indonesian Health Card (JKN-KIS) as of 1 March 2023.<sup>1985</sup> Furthermore, BPJS Kesehatan outlined its plans to reach 98 per cent coverage of JKN-KIS in 2024.

On 14 March 2023, Minister of Trade Zulkifli Hasan initiated a health company investment collaboration with Apollo Hospitals Enterprise in India.<sup>1986</sup> This collaboration would have a positive impact on accessibility of affordable and quality health services for the Indonesian community.

On 2 May 2023, BPJS Kesehatan invited student organizations, members of the Cipayung Plus Group, to introduce the JKN Program as well as demonstrate BPJS Kesehatan’s various efforts in transforming service quality.<sup>1987</sup> Main Director of BPJS Kesehatan Ghufron Mukti stressed that the involvement of younger generation into the national JKN programme would yield benefit both for the government and students in the aim of achieving better healthcare system.

On 15 May 2023 the World Bank Group and the Joint Learning Network (JLN) organized International Symposium: Advancing the Global Health Agenda - From Nagasaki to the World.<sup>1988</sup> During the event the Main Director of BPJS Kesehatan Ghufron Mukti represented Indonesia as the head of one of the most effective public health programme – JKN. Director Ghufron Mukti shared the key points of the success of

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<sup>1982</sup> Health Technology Innovation Requires University Role, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 2 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/23020300002/health-innovation-requires-role-of-university.html>

<sup>1983</sup> AFKSI Supports the Government to Increase the Number of Specialist Doctors, RR.COM (Jakarta) 5 February 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://realitarakyat.com/2023/02/afksi-dukung-pemerintah-perbanyak-jumlah-dokter-spesialis/>

<sup>1984</sup> Kemenko PMK Supports the Transformation of the National Health System, KEMENKO PMK (Jakarta) 18 January 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.kemenkopmk.go.id/kemenko-pmk-mendukung-transformasi-sistem-kesehatan-nasional>

<sup>1985</sup> BPJS Kesehatan Claims Nearly 91% Indonesians Covered by JKN-KIS, TEMPO.CO (PT INFO MEDIA DIGITAL) 14 March 2023.

Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://en.tempo.co/read/1702469/bpjs-kesehatan-claims-nearly-91-indonesians-covered-by-jkn-kis>

<sup>1986</sup> Investment in Health Sector, Indonesia Collaborates with Apollo Hospitals Enterprise in India, KOMPAS.com (Jakarta) 14 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://money.kompas.com/read/2023/03/14/100436326/investasi-bidang-kesehatan-indonesia-kerja-sama-dengan-apollo-hospitals>

<sup>1987</sup> Transformation of Service Quality, BPJS Health Involves the Role of Student Organizations in the Cipayung Plus Group, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (Jakarta) 02 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 June 2023.

<sup>1988</sup> Increasingly Recognized by the World, BPJS Health’s Performance Becomes Attention in Nagasaki, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (Jakarta) 15 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 June 2023.

the programme and listed common risk and obstacles faced during the introduction of the programme, in order to share the expertise with other participating countries.

On 16 May 2023, BPJS Kesehatan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indonesian Actuary Association.<sup>1989</sup> The scope of the following MoU includes providing support in the program to accelerate the fulfillment of the actuary profession, providing support in updating the Actuarial Management Guidelines in accordance with actuarial practice standards that apply nationally and internationally, providing support for the development of actuarial applications for the required JKN Program and providing actuarial support for development of the JKN Policy required by BPJS Kesehatan in order to achieve higher quality and efficiency.

On 31 May 2023, BPJS Kesehatan and Papua Provincial Government were actively cooperating in order to make National Health Insurance program available to all Papuan people.<sup>1990</sup> Both parties mentioned that they had faced minor obstacles related to infrastructure capacities and health facilities connectivity in several regions of the province and they were active working in order to promptly resolve the issues.

On 9 June 2023, BPJS Kesehatan launched Healthkathon 2.0 with the aim to invite private sector and population to participate in the development of digital health ecosystem.<sup>1991</sup> During the period of the event participants can submit their ideas and projects as well as participate in competitions and challenges.

On 22 June 2023, BPJS Kesehatan introduced a new financing scheme that would improve the quality of service for National Health Insurance participants by effectively allocating funding sources for infrastructure and service development of medical facilities.<sup>1992</sup>

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Indonesia has taken significant efforts to improve improved the quality and accessibility of medical services.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 23 December 2022, President Sergio Mattarella adopted a legislative decree No.200 which enables the reorganization of recovery and care institutions.<sup>1993</sup> The objective of the reorganization is to strengthen research policies of the Ministry of Health, enhance the relationship between research, innovation and care institutions, promote research networks with other structures of the National Health Service and universities, solidify the role of recovery and care institutions as knowledge transfer centers, and also reinforce the capacity of these institutions to attract funding and participate in research projects at national and international level.

On 30 December 2022, the Ministry of Health published a biennial selection procedure for the award of vouchers for Proof of Concept (POC) projects and stipulation of conventions, research projects on cancer

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<sup>1989</sup> Optimizing the Role of Actuaries in the JKN Program, BPJS Health Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with PAI, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency 16 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 June 2023.

<sup>1990</sup> BPJS Health Strengthens Synergy for Excellent Health Services in the Land of Papua, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (Jakarta) 01 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 June 2023.

<sup>1991</sup> Healthkathon BPJS Health Encourages IT-Based Innovation, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (Jakarta) 09 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 June 2023.

<sup>1992</sup> Service Quality Boost, Health Facility Financing Scheme Strengthened, Indonesian Health Care and Social Security Agency (Jakarta) 22 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 June 2023.

<sup>1993</sup> National Plan for Recovery and Resilience: all EU milestones for 2022 are reached, Ministry of Health (Rome) 30 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/pnrrsalute/dettaglioNotiziePNRRSalute.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6118>

and rare diseases and research projects with high impact on citizens' health.<sup>1994</sup> The selection provides for financing POC projects worth EUR100 million, which will help reduce the gap between academic research results and industrial application of healthcare solutions, support the development of technologies with a low degree of technological maturity, and encourage technology transfer from the laboratory to the industry.

On 26 January 2023, the Ministry of Health adopted the National Cancer Plan for 2023-2027 aimed at preventing and curing cancer.<sup>1995</sup> The Plan's key objectives include completing the process of establishing the national cancer registry and ensuring the establishment process and full organizational functionality of the Regional Cancer Registry Network in all areas of the country.

On 8 March 2023, the Ministry of Health announced the establishment of the National Telemedicine Platform via a EUR250 million concession of a healthcare project under the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience called "Planning, implementation and management of enabling services of the National Telemedicine Platform PNRR."<sup>1996</sup> The Italian National Agency for Regional Healthcare Services has granted the concession to two private entities (Raggruppamento Temporaneo di Impresa Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A. and Almaviva S.p.A.) that will manage the Platform. Health Minister Schillaci said: "The National Telemedicine Platform will allow us to solve the challenge of overcoming inequalities as per providing services and assistance in different regions of the country. Thanks to the Platform, healthcare professionals will be able to use new tools to operate effectively in each individual case and at the same time the accessibility of care and services to patients will also be improved. This will result in a significant easing of pressure on hospitals and emergency services often overburdened by requests, which negatively affects the ability to promptly ensure necessary interventions and services to those in real need."

On 28 March 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted the executive order "Energia" that aims to increase and strengthen healthcare personnel, especially in emergency services, make work more attractive in first aid departments and allow nurses to carry out freelance activities.<sup>1997</sup> Among the measures stipulated by the order, there is the "payback" for medical centers that provide healthcare equipment, limitation for hiring ad-hoc medics while prioritizing permanent staff, increase in the hourly wages rate of additional services in the emergency section, specific allowance for those who work in the emergency section, and recognition by way of derogation of professional health qualifications obtained abroad so that professionals can temporarily practice in public or private accredited health or social health facilities.

On 19 April 2023, the Conference of the State and the Regions approved the inter-ministerial decree on healthcare services rates for patients, which makes healthcare more affordable to citizens with diverse needs.<sup>1998</sup> Among the innovations, there are services for the diagnosis or monitoring of celiac disease and rare diseases, essential services for high-precision instrumental diagnostic in the field of diagnostic imaging able to allow faster and more reliable diagnoses, enteroscopy with ingestible micro-camera, neonatal screening.

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<sup>1994</sup> Publication of a biennial selection procedure for the award of vouchers for POC (Proof of Concept) projects and stipulation of conventions, research projects on cancer and rare diseases and research projects with high impact on citizens' health, Ministry of Health (Rome) 30 December 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 March 2023. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/pnrssalute/dettaglioTargetMilestonePNRRSalute.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=390&area=PNRR-Salute&menu=missionesalute>

<sup>1995</sup> National Cancer Plan 2023-2027, Ministry of Health (Rome) 7 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 8 March 2023.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/tumori/dettaglioContenutiTumori.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=6012&area=tumori&menu=vuoto>

<sup>1996</sup> Telemedicine: signed contract for national platform services, Ministry of Health (Rome) 8 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 8 March 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5931](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5931)

<sup>1997</sup> Minister Schillaci: Executive Order 34 is the first step for structural reform. Measures for first aid, health professions, ad-hoc doctors, Ministry of Health (Rome) 31 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 1 May 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6203](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6203)

<sup>1998</sup> Lea, Schillaci: approved tariff decree, guaranteed benefits to all citizens, Ministry of Health (Rome) 19 April 2023.

Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 2 May 2023.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/lea/dettaglioNotizieLea.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=6226>



Italy has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Italy acted to address all four issue areas, in particular through investing in affordable, quality primary healthcare and allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases, engaging the private sector, reorganizing the models of UHC's financing, and creating jobs in healthcare.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Vadim Kuznetsov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 21-22 February 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Asia-Europe Foundation and the AMR Clinical Reference Center held a high-level conference on “Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics.”<sup>1999</sup>

On 3 March 2023, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of India signed an agreement under which India would receive JPY406 billion (USD 3.1 billion) for realization of two projects, with one of the projects being a development of Mizoram State Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre.<sup>2000</sup> The aim of the project is to provide residents of the state with adequate access to cancer prevention, screening, and treatment in the state, as well as to develop human resources to support the state's cancer countermeasures.

On 15 March 2023, Japan jointly with the International Atomic Energy Agency launched “Rays of Hope” enabling 11 Japanese universities and institutions (Research University 11) to enhance cancer care in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>2001</sup> The cooperation aims at harnessing a range of technical expertise to provide more training opportunities and share research outcomes, to help hospitals improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, particularly in developing countries.

On 28 March 2023, JICA and Egypt signed an agreement under which Egypt would receive USD336 million to develop its Universal Health Care Insurance System.<sup>2002</sup> According to the statement of Mohamed Maait, the Minister of Finance of Egypt, the agreement would help in expanding the system to cover all Egyptian governorates. This financial aid will reinforce Egypt's capacities in the Government's plan to build 135 new healthcare facilities and improve 5,314 health units as well as raise the quality of medical services.

On 10 May 2023, the JICA in cooperation with World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund held a seminar “Guide to Strengthening the Implementation of Household Health Records for Maternal and Child Health” in order to share the expertise with partners in developing countries on how to introduce and effectively operate home-based medical records for women.<sup>2003</sup>

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<sup>1999</sup> 2023 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics Conference, Asia-Europe Foundation (Singapore). Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://asef.org/projects/2023-uhc-in-an-era-of-amr-and-pandemics-conference/>

<sup>2000</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Multifaceted support for solving social issues in healthcare and urban infrastructure, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. [https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2022/20230303\\_32.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2022/20230303_32.html)

<sup>2001</sup> IAEA Launches Rays of Hope Partnership with 11 Japanese Universities and Institutions to Enhance Cancer Care in Asia and the Pacific, International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-launches-rays-of-hope-partnership-with-11-japanese-universities-and-institutions-to-enhance-cancer-care-in-asia-and-the-pacific>

<sup>2002</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Egypt: Contributing to achieving universal health coverage, Japan International Cooperation Agency 28 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. [https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2022/20230328\\_41.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2022/20230328_41.html)

<sup>2003</sup> Held a seminar for the presentation of the “Guide to Enhancing the Implementation of Home Health Records for Maternal and Child Health”, Japan International Cooperation Agency 10 May 2023 Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 June 2023. [https://www.jica.go.jp/information/seminar/2023/20230510\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/information/seminar/2023/20230510_01.html)

On 25 May 2023, the JICA and the Government of Djibouti agreed to cooperate on developing healthcare system in Djibouti.<sup>2004</sup> Under the grant agreement the Japanese counterparty will allocate funds in the total amount of JPY590 million (USD4.12 million) to upgrade hospital equipment in Djibouti in order to create capacities of providing advanced medical services for the population. The cooperation also includes training of medical personnel to handle the new equipment to improve the quality of diagnostics and treatment.

On 31 May 2023, the Parliament enacted laws in order to establish a new special governmental body to resist future healthcare threats.<sup>2005</sup> The new organization is said to be modelled after U.S. Center for Disease Control and is expected to start functioning in 2025.

On 9 June 2023, the Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare announced the results of Japan Medical and Welfare Startup Award.<sup>2006</sup> The organizers awarded the best practices and solutions in the field of medical services that enable users to achieve better health outcomes.

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Japan has taken significant efforts to improve improved the quality and accessibility of medical services.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 16 December 2022, Ministers of Health of Korea, China and Japan held a videoconference on international cooperation in healthcare and bettering public response to infectious diseases.<sup>2007</sup> The participants shared respective national policy experiences and discussed ways to jointly achieve three main objectives: 1) achieving health security through cooperation in responding to infectious diseases; 2) providing universal health coverage; and 3) ensuring healthy ageing.

On 8 February 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare presented the list of 10 emergent measures to provide essential healthcare services.<sup>2008</sup> The Ministry urges to: 1) Restructure and expand the emergency care system to guarantee the availability of final treatment; 2) Introduce a duty-rotation system between hospitals to rapidly respond to critical emergencies; 3) Reorganize the treatment system for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases focusing on specialized medical care; 4) Introduce stricter evaluation and designation standards for tertiary general hospitals to provide a better quality of care for serious illnesses and pediatric illnesses; 5) Reorganize the treatment system for mothers and newborn infants based on level of risk and severity; 6) Establish a pediatric care infrastructure that can guarantee a full-range of services from primary care to the treatment of emergency and severe illnesses; 7) Introduce a public fee schedule to overcome the limits of the current National Health Insurance medical fee schedule; 8) Restructure resident workforce deployment standards and develop a hospital bed management plan; 9) Train healthcare

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<sup>2004</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Djibouti: Contributing to improving the quality of medical services through provision of medical equipment for tertiary care hospitals, Japan International Cooperation Agency 25 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 June 2023. [https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2023/20230525\\_41.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/press/2023/20230525_41.html)

<sup>2005</sup> Japan enacts laws on new disease-control body to help fight next pandemic, The Japan Times 1 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/06/01/national/politics-diplomacy/disease-control-body/>

<sup>2006</sup> "Japan Startup Awards 2023" Award Ceremony, Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare of Japan 09 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 June 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_33538.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_33538.html)

<sup>2007</sup> Korean, Chinese, and Japanese Health Ministers Discuss International Cooperation in Public Health, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2023. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=3&CONT\\_SEQ=374156](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=3&CONT_SEQ=374156)

<sup>2008</sup> Announcement of Essential Healthcare Support Measure, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=2&CONT\\_SEQ=374922](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=2&CONT_SEQ=374922)

workforce to improve essential healthcare; 10) Heavier responsibility taken by the government to create a better medical treatment environment for unavoidable medical malpractice cases.

On 3 March 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare presented the Pediatric Healthcare System Enhancement Plan.<sup>2009</sup> The Ministry aims to increase the level of compensation for pediatric healthcare services; adopt measures “to brighten up the career prospects in the field”; resolve inconveniences for parents who need pediatric healthcare treatment at night or weekends; increase the number of Pediatric Emergency Medical Centers and improve the evaluation system for emergency medical centers; promote development of adequate healthcare workforce.

On 17 March 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced the detail of the 6th Comprehensive Plan of Policies for Persons with Disabilities.<sup>2010</sup> The Plan is to be implemented in 2023 – 2027 and includes three main directions: 1) Welfare for the weak; 2) Innovation of social services; 3) Global standards. On practice the Ministry aims to launch the integrated care service for people with severe disabilities in June 2024; provide urgent care services based on “round-the-clock” principle starting from April 2023; achieve developmental rehabilitation services’ target of 100,000 by 2027; expand the number of jobs for persons with disabilities from 30,000 in 2023 to 40,000 in 2027.

On 31 March 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare presented the 3rd Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for the Development and Support for Bio-Pharmaceutical Industry.<sup>2011</sup> The Government plans to steadily increase public-private joint research and development investments; support emergence of next-generation technologies; establish an integrated export center; improve policies and regulations regarding licensing, insurance, and certification for innovative pharmaceutical companies. The government also plans to invest KRW1 trillion in the K-Bio Vaccine Fund.

On 5-6 April 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare held a meeting with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of Indonesia.<sup>2012</sup> The parties reached a consensus on promoting comprehensive cooperation in the health care field. At the meetings, the Ministry and ASEAN agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation in digital health and healthcare informatization, and diversify ways to cooperate with feasible applicability to the private sector.

On 27 April 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare presented the 3rd Master Plan for Fostering of Health and Medical Service Technology for 2023 – 2027.<sup>2013</sup> The government aims at growth in biotech export up to USD44.7 billion in 2027; build a system to respond to a health security crisis with vaccines and medicine within a period of 100 days; and improve the overall healthcare and medical service technology compared to the most advanced countries.

On 25 May 2023, the Government and the World Health Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the operation of Global Training Hub for Biomanufacturing.<sup>2014</sup> The MoU provides that the parties would work closely together in the areas of development of training programs,

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<sup>2009</sup> Announcement of Pediatric Healthcare System Enhancement Plan, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=2&CONT\\_SEQ=375229](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=2&CONT_SEQ=375229)

<sup>2010</sup> The 6th Comprehensive Plan of Policies for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 17 March 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=2&CONT\\_SEQ=375425](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=2&CONT_SEQ=375425)

<sup>2011</sup> The 3rd Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for the Development and Support for Bio-Pharmaceutical Industry as a Bio Health Global Powerhouse, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 31 March 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=375685](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=375685)

<sup>2012</sup> The Ministry of Health and Welfare and ASEAN to Jointly Pursue Comprehensive Cooperation in Healthcare Field, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=375820](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=375820)

<sup>2013</sup> Healthcare 4.0 Era for Healthy Korea, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 27 April 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=375996](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=375996)

<sup>2014</sup> Republic of Korea and WHO to Expand Cooperation on the Operation of Global Training Hub for Biomanufacturing, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong-si) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=376591](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=376591)

infrastructure, networking, and information sharing. The MoU also established a basis for working on procedure for co-branding of a training course.

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Korea acted to address all four issue areas, in particular through investing in affordable, quality primary healthcare and allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases, engaging the private sector, reorganizing the models of UHC financing, and creating jobs in healthcare.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 28 November 2023, Undersecretary for Prevention and Health Promotion Hugo López Gatell-Ramírez led the installation of the National Advisory Committee for Public Health Standardization, whose central task is to reorganize the functions of the national advisory committees for Prevention and Health Standardization.<sup>2015</sup> Disease Control and Innovation, Development, Technologies and Health Information. The committee will improve the communication and coordination mechanisms between the administrative units and decentralized bodies of the Ministry of Health with other dependencies of the federal Executive, of the institutions that make up the National Health System, of research and of higher education, for the issuance, review, modification and cancellation of Official Mexican Standards and other regulatory instruments.

On 5 December 2022, the Mexican Social Security Institute announced an investment of MXN10 billion for the construction of hospitals in the State of Puebla de Zaragoza, specifically in San Alejandro and Amozoc, along with the expansion of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Unit in La Margarita, with the aim of improving the facilities in the region.<sup>2016</sup>

On 21 December 2022, authorities from the Ministry of Health and the Government of Sonora installed the first State Inter-Institutional Command of the Health Sector at the national level, which will be in charge of identifying health risks and establishing care strategies with support and intervention from all the institutions that make up the public and private health sector.<sup>2017</sup> This strategy will be implemented in the states to provide coverage at the national level.

On 26 January 2023, the Ministry of Health, through the National Commission against Addictions, the Psychiatric Care Services and the Technical Secretariat of the National Mental Health Council, the government of Mexico City and the Commission Human Rights of Mexico City, with the support of civil society organizations announced that it will facilitate access to health services for users of psychoactive substances in priority care groups.<sup>2018</sup>

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<sup>2015</sup> The National Consultative Committee for Public Health Standardization is established, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/573-se-instala-comite-consultivo-nacional-de-normalizacion-de-salud-publica?idiom=es>.

<sup>2016</sup> Zoé Robledo confirms investment of 10 billion pesos in Puebla to replace San Alejandro and two more hospitals, La Jornada ae Oriente (Mexico) 5 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 July 2023.

<https://www.lajornadadeorientemexico.com.mx/puebla/confirma-zoe-robledo-inversion-de-10-mil-mdp-en-puebla-para-reponer-san-alejandro-y-dos-hospitales-mas/>

<sup>2017</sup> The first State Inter-institutional Command of the Health Sector (CEISS) is installed in Sonora, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/593-se-instala-en-sonora-primer-comando-estatal-interinstitucional-del-sector-salud-ceiss?idiom=es>.

<sup>2018</sup> Federal and CDMX authorities will facilitate access to health services for users of psychoactive substances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/018-autoridades-federales-y-de-la-cdmx-facilitaran-acceso-a-servicios-de-salud-para-personas-usuarias-de-sustancias-psicoactivas?idiom=es>.

On 14 February the Senate approved amendments to the Federal Labour Law, which include the creation of a Comprehensive Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Right to Mental Health in the Workplace.<sup>2019</sup> According to the project, the centers of work will have to dedicate two days a year, one per semester, to ensure that their facilities are conducted workshops, taught by certified professionals in psychiatry, to support the workers in the care and protection of your mental health.

On 4 March 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India signed an agreement for the production of low-cost vaccines.<sup>2020</sup>

On 9 March 2023, Federal authorities from the Health sector led by Secretary Jorge Alcocer Varela, and from the government of Hidalgo, headed by Governor Julio Ramón Menchaca Salazar, began the federalization process to transfer health centers and hospitals to IMSS-Bienestar.<sup>2021</sup> During the work meeting attended by the general director of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), Zoé Robledo Aburto, Secretary Alcocer Varela stressed that the purpose of federalization is to reconfigure the health system to guarantee access to services for people without social security.

On 14 March 2023, the Government announced the investment of MXN28.3 million in 164 projects to strengthen and practice traditional medicine and supports 256 community promoters with this type of knowledge in 24 states, through the Program for the Comprehensive Well-being of Indigenous Peoples.<sup>2022</sup>

On 16 March 2023, Authorities from the federal Health sector and the Government of San Luis Potosí welcomed 103 medical specialists who will reinforce care in hospitals of the entity in charge of the Decentralized Public Body IMSS-Bienestar.<sup>2023</sup>

On 7 April 2023, the General Health Council of Mexico announced the winners of the awards to public health professionals.<sup>2024</sup> They are given to those who have stood out for their merits and relevant contribution to the benefit of people's health. For the 2023 edition of these awards, health institutions, higher education, academies, scientific societies, councils, professional groups, and academics in the health area in general were invited to present the candidacies of those professionals, who are Outstanding figures for their merits and relevant and distinguished contribution to the benefit of people's health at the national level.

On 25 April 2023, the Chamber of Deputies approved the reform the draft decree that reforms, adds and repeals various provisions of the General Health Law, in order to regulate the Health System for Welfare.<sup>2025</sup> The document states that the health services of the IMSS-Bienestar will collaborate with the Secretariat of Health regarding the free provision of health services, medicines and other associated supplies required by people without social security. Presenting new initiative, the Deputy Emmanuel Reyes Carmona explained that the purpose is to incorporate the Health System for Well-being, which will allow laying the foundations

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<sup>2019</sup> Senado aprueba reforma para garantizar derecho humano a la salud mental en el trabajo, Senado de la República. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://comunicacionsocial.senado.gob.mx/informacion/comunicados/4996-senado-aprueba-reforma-para-garantizar-derecho-humano-a-la-salud-mental-en-el-trabajo>

<sup>2020</sup> Mexico and India will collaborate on water, lithium and vaccines, Foreign Minister Ebrard announces, Government of Mexico (Mexico) 4 March 2023. Translation provided by DeepL Translate. Access Date: 28 August 2023.

<sup>2021</sup> Hidalgo begins work for the transfer of services to IMSS-Welfare: Alcocer Varela, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/063-hidalgo-inicia-trabajos-para-la-transferencia-de-servicios-hacia-imss-bienestar-alcocer-varela?idiom=es>.

<sup>2022</sup> The Government of Mexico invests 28.3 million pesos in 164 traditional medicine projects: Alcocer Varela, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 16 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/069-gobierno-de-mexico-invierte-28-3-mdp-en-164-proyectos-de-medicina-tradicional-alcocer-varela?idiom=es>.

<sup>2023</sup> Specialists are added to reinforce IMSS-Well-being in San Luis Potosí, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 16 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/se-suman-especialistas-para-reforzar-imss-bienestar-en-san-luis-potosi?idiom=es>

<sup>2024</sup> General Health Council announces awards to public health professionals, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/consejo-de-salubridad-general-da-a-conocer-reconocimientos-a-profesionales-de-la-salud-publica-330922?idiom=es>.

<sup>2025</sup> La Cámara de Diputados aprobó reformas para regular el Sistema de Salud para el Bienestar, Cámara de Diputados. Access Date: 18 June 2023. <https://comunicacionsocial.diputados.gob.mx/index.php/boletines/la-camara-de-diputados-aprobo-reformas-para-regular-el-sistema-de-salud-para-el-bienestar>

for the concurrence of the Federation and the federal entities, in the provision of health services that are provided for people without social security.

On 20 June 2023, the Federal Health Authority signed with six states the Resource Transfer Agreement to formalize collaboration with the decentralized public body IMSS-Bienestar.<sup>2026</sup> Federal Health Authorities signed with governors of Nayarit, Tlaxcala, Colima, Sonora, Sinaloa and Baja California Sur, the Resource Transfer Agreement to formalize collaboration with the decentralized public body IMSS-Bienestar. The Secretary of Health Alcocer Varela highlighted that the formalization of this instrument, which is based on the reform of the General Health Law, allows the work for centralization in health to continue through the decentralized public body IMSS-Bienestar, with the aim of providing free, universal and quality medical care.

On 4 July 2023, Head of Mental Health of the Institute for Security and Social Services of State Workers Lucía Amelia Ledesma Torres announced the new Comprehensive Mental Health Program for the three levels of care.<sup>2027</sup> The program includes the operational guide for the comprehensive management of emergencies in mental health Código Morado, through which more than two thousand cases have been attended, and there are countable beds in all general, regional and highly specialized hospitals. Also design and implement an educational plan for non-specialized and specialized human resources in mental health and addictions to reduce the gap in the three levels of care.

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Mexico has taken actions on ramping up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare and improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; however, no actions on changing of the models of UHC financing, engaging the private sector and unlocking new models for health financing and delivery were registered yet.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Irina Popova and Ksenia Dorokhina*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry of Health launched the new platform powered by artificial intelligence to facilitate exchanges between health practitioners and software solutions developers.<sup>2028</sup> The Ministry hopes to use advantages of medical data processing for public health protection purposes.

On 1 December 2022, the Ministry of Health initiated a new nation-wide competition “The Best Public-Private Project in Healthcare.”<sup>2029</sup> The Ministry hopes to facilitate emergence and exchange in best public health practices. The competition embraces such spheres as infrastructure, private healthcare organizations, health information proliferation, regional healthcare systems development.

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<sup>2026</sup> 178.Federacion firma convenio con seis estados para prestacion de servicios de salud con IMSS-Bienestar. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/178-federacion-firma-convenio-con-seis-estados-para-prestacion-de-servicios-de-salud-con-imss-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>2027</sup> Autoridades presentan plan sectorial de salud mental y adicciones-2023-2024. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/autoridades-presentan-plan-sectorial-de-salud-mental-y-adicciones-2023-2024?idiom=es>

<sup>2028</sup> Ministry of Health to Launch AI Platform for Health Sphere, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/11/25/19580-minzdrav-rossii-zapustil-platformu-iskusstvennogo-intellekta-v-zdravoohranenii>

<sup>2029</sup> Ministry of Health Launches Russia-wide Competition “The Best Public-Private Project in Healthcare”, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 1 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/01/19706-minzdrav-rossii-provodit-vserossiyskiy-konkurs-luchshiy-proekt-gosudarstvenno-chastnogo-vzaimodeystviya-v-zdravoohranenii>

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Health launched a pilot project on remote monitoring of patients' health status based on cut-edge medical technologies.<sup>2030</sup> The project is personally curated by First Vice-Premier Minister A.R. Belousov and is scheduled for 2023 – 2024. The patients participating in the project would receive personal health monitors that would gather necessary health data to be further analyzed by medics. At its start, 200 patients received the monitors.

On 23 January 2023, the Government allocated extra funds from the state budget to facilitate provision of medical services under the National Health Insurance program.<sup>2031</sup> For 2023, the Government allocated RUB2.746 trillion that is 11.6 per cent increase comparing with 2022. Extra finding would be spent on health specialists' wages and provision of extra financing to in-patient facilities.

On 3 March 2023, Russia and Tajikistan signed a bilateral cooperation agreement in health sphere.<sup>2032</sup> The parties agreed on establishing closer ties in diseases prevention, medical education, and scientific development.

On 26 April 2023, the Government started an annual nationwide health check-up campaign.<sup>2033</sup> The Government aims to promote voluntary and regular health check-ups via state television and internet resources.

On 1 June 2023, the Ministry of Health held a meeting with the Council of Patients Rights Protection Non-Governmental Organizations, the participants discussed issues related to distribution of subsidized medicine.<sup>2034</sup>

Russia acted to address all four issue areas, in particular through investing in affordable, quality primary healthcare and allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases, engaging the private sector, reorganizing the models of UHC financing, and creating jobs in healthcare.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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<sup>2030</sup> A Pilot Project on Remote Monitoring Patients' Health Status Launched in Russia, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 29 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/29/19716-v-rossii-startoval-pilotnyy-proekt-po-distantsionnomu-monitoringu-sostoyaniya-zdorovya-patsientov-s-ispolzovaniem-vysokotekhnologichnyh-ustroystv-i-servisov>

<sup>2031</sup> State Medical Insurance Program to be Substantially Extended in 2023, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 23 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/01/23/19792-programma-gosudarstvennyh-garantiy-besplatnoy-meditsinskoy-pomoschi-na-2023-god-znachitelno-rasshirena>

<sup>2032</sup> Russia and Tajikistan Signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Healthcare, Education, and Science, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 3 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/03/03/19900-podpisano-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-mezhdu-rossiy-i-tadzhikistanom-v-oblasti-zdravoohraneniya-meditsinskogo-obrazovaniya-i-nauki>

<sup>2033</sup> Federal Health Check-Up Campaign Started, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 26 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/04/26/20133-zdorovie-vazhno-zdes-i-seychas-startovala-federalnaya-kampaniya-o-dispanserizatsii>

<sup>2034</sup> Ministry of Health discussed issues of subsidized medicines distribution with the patients community, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 1 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/06/01/20199-minzdrav-rossii-obsudil-s-patsientskim-soobshchestvom-voprosy-lygotnogo-lekarstvennogo-obespecheniya>

On 2 February 2023, the Ministry of Health announced that it would launch a training program on public health surveillance in cooperation with the World Health Organization.<sup>2035</sup> It is said that the program aims to reduce impact of emerging risks on public health through early detection and evaluation.

On 2 February 2023, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah signed a Memorandum of Cooperation as to enhance innovation in field health services, and allow to share the two entities' resources more efficiently.<sup>2036</sup>

On 8 February 2023, the Ministry of Health launched a new version of the "Sehhaty App."<sup>2037</sup> The application is designed as to provide health services to individuals throughout the country. According to the Ministry, the updated version "provides many quality services and unique benefits."

On 16 March 2023, the Ministry of Health jointly with the National Center for Privatization and Public-Private Partnership invited private investors to participate in three proposed projects: 1) Long-Term Care and Skilled Nursing Home project; 2) Medical Rehabilitation Hospital; 3) Home Healthcare. The projects' area includes Riyadh and the country's eastern regions.<sup>2038</sup>

On 19 March 2023, the Ministry of Health announced that it launches the first conference on cochlear implantation and hearing diseases.<sup>2039</sup> The Ministry implies that the new platform would "ensure that the Kingdom ranks first in cochlear implantation at regional and global levels."

On 3 May 2023, the Government launched the Scientific Forum for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Obesity Surgery Centers and Units.<sup>2040</sup> The aim of the event is formulated as "to raise awareness and understanding of the link between diabetes and obesity, facilitate knowledge exchange and cooperation between health care professionals, researchers, policy makers and others in the field of diabetes and obesity, present and discuss creative methods based on scientific research for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes and obesity, and discuss latest results of research and emerging trends in the field of diabetes and obesity."

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. Saudi Arabia acted to address three out of four issue areas, in particular through investing in affordable, quality primary healthcare and allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases, and engaging the private sector, but no action aimed creating jobs in healthcare has been found within the monitoring period.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

## **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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<sup>2035</sup> In collaboration with WHO, Ministry of Health Organizes a Program to Reduce Impact of Emerging Risks on Public Health, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 2 February 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2023-02-02-003.aspx>

<sup>2036</sup> Ministries of "Health" and "Hajj and Umrah" Sign a Memorandum of Cooperation to Implement Creative Initiatives, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 2 February 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2023-02-02-002.aspx>

<sup>2037</sup> Ministry of Health launches a new version of "Sehhaty App", Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2023-02-08-001.aspx>

<sup>2038</sup> MOH Opens the Door for Expressing Interest for Long-term Care, Medical Rehabilitation and Home Healthcare Projects in Riyadh and Eastern regions

<sup>2039</sup> Ministry of Health Launches the First Conference on Cochlear Implantation and Hearing Diseases, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 19 March 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2023-03-19-001.aspx>

<sup>2040</sup> The Ministry of Health Organizes the Scientific Forum for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity Surgery Centers and Units, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 3 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2022-05-03-001.aspx>



On 9 December 2022, the Government announced that the Ministry of Health would host a high-level seminar on Universal Health Coverage provision policy under the theme “Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All” that is said to “serves as a clarion call for all people to access quality health services without financial hardship.”<sup>2041</sup>

On 30 January 2023, the Government announced that all vaccination sites are open and ready to provide additional Covid-19 vaccine booster doses.<sup>2042</sup> That decision comes as a response for growing demand from vulnerable members of the community as was said in the Department of Health announcement.

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. South Africa acted to address one out of four issue areas, in particular through investing in affordable, quality primary healthcare via providing affordable vaccination against major communicable diseases. However, no action aimed at other three issues areas of the commitment has been found within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Türkiye: 0**

Türkiye has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 21 November 2022, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) donated health training equipment to Mother Mary School of Health Sciences in eastern Uganda.<sup>2043</sup> This donation is a part of large-scale initiative to improve well-being and quality of medical services of people in developing and the least developed countries.

On 25 November 2022, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca presented the 2023 budget of Health at the Planning and Budget Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.<sup>2044</sup> Minister Koca stated that 14 city hospitals were already completed with the public-private partnership model with a bed capacity of 22,675 units and four other hospitals realized through the same model were under construction. Additionally, the 2023 budget for preventive health services will be increased eight times on a year-on-year basis to TRY84.4 billion (USD4.38 billion). Regarding medical personnel, in 2023 the Ministry of Health plans to increase the number of healthcare sector workers by 115,000 to over 1.5 million workers.

On 22 December 2022, the Ministry of Health organized a meeting with representatives of pharmaceutical industry in Istanbul.<sup>2045</sup> The meeting was dedicated to the issue of medicines inaccessibility and unavailability. Minister Koca underlined that the main goal of public and private stakeholders in pharmaceutical sector were Turkish citizens and their access to medical goods. Sector representatives supported Minister’s statement and announced that they would mobilize all their means related to the supply of medicines.

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<sup>2041</sup> Health Ministry convenes Universal Health Coverage Policy Dialogue, Department of Health (Pretoria) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Health-Ministry-convenes-Universal-Health-Coverage-Policy-Dialogue.pdf>

<sup>2042</sup> Government opens for additional COVID-19 booster doses, Department of Health (Pretoria) 30 January 2023. Access Date: 4 May 2023. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Government-opens-for-additional-COVID-19-booster-doses-30-January-2023.pdf>

<sup>2043</sup> Technical Equipment Support from TIKA to Health Center in Uganda, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) 01 December 2022. Access Date: 30 April 2023. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/technical\\_equipment\\_support\\_from\\_tika\\_to\\_health\\_center\\_in\\_uganda-74211](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/technical_equipment_support_from_tika_to_health_center_in_uganda-74211)

<sup>2044</sup> Ministry of Health 2023 Budget Adopted in the Planning Budget Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 November 2022. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,93742/ministry-of-health-2023-budget-adopted-in-the-planning-budget-committee-of-the-grand-national-assembly-of-turkiye.html>

<sup>2045</sup> Health Minister Dr. Koca met with the Representatives of Pharmaceutical Industry, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,94120/health-minister-dr-koca-met-with-the-representatives-of-pharmaceutical-industry.html>

On 2 March 2023, Minister Koca reported that in response to disastrous earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria, the Ministry of Health with the support of international community, established additional field hospitals with a total of 35 fully equipped operating rooms and 110 emergency response facilities.<sup>2046</sup>

On 29 March 2023, the Government held a Groundbreaking Ceremony for Earthquake Housing and New State Hospitals in Iskenderun.<sup>2047</sup> The hospitals are expected to be constructed in a short time without delay, providing over 1 300 hospital beds in order to restore medical capacities in the area damaged by the earthquake.

On 30 March 2023, Türkiye held discussions with Libya's Health Ministry with aim to develop special educational programmes to provide Libyan medical and paramedical personnel relevant training through Turkish medical institutions.<sup>2048</sup>

On 15 April 2023, President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the Collective Opening Ceremony of Kocaeli City Hospital and Other Completed Projects.<sup>2049</sup> President Erdoğan stated that the new hospital with a bed capacity of 1 218 will significantly improve the medical services for the population, decreasing the waiting time and upgrading hospital equipment that will result in better health outcomes.

On 27 April 2023, Minister Koca attended the collective opening ceremony of 83 health facilities in Konya. The Minister pointed out that during the year 2022 Türkiye significantly developed capacities in medical services.<sup>2050</sup> Dr. Koca mentioned that the average number of patients per day in Konya City Hospital with 1250 beds reached 6,000 persons with 2 million examinations and 100,000 operations performed in 2022.

On 2 June 2023, the Ministry of Healthcare announced that they extend the scope of healthcare services for the elderly population.<sup>2051</sup> The new regulation enables the population over the age of 80 to receive home health services at any time they request, regardless of any medical reports or dependency on a supporting device.

On 7 June 2023, Minister Koca announced that a new hospital will be established in Istanbul.<sup>2052</sup> The hospital will specialize in the treatment of rare diseases with the application of cell and gene therapies. According to Minister Koca, the drugs that will be used in cell and gene therapy will also be produced on the same campus.

Türkiye has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Türkiye has taken some steps to improve improved the quality and accessibility of medical services, but not all the key spheres have been covered within the monitoring period.

Thus, Türkiye receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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<sup>2046</sup> Health Minister Koca Meets with WHO Director-General Ghebreyesusv, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 2 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,94972/health-minister-koca-meets-with-who-director-general-ghebreyesusv.html>

<sup>2047</sup> Health Minister Fahrettin Koca Speaks at the Groundbreaking Ceremony in Hatay, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 29 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,95319/health-minister-fahrettin-koca-speaks-at-the-groundbreaking-ceremony-in-hatay.html>

<sup>2048</sup> Health Ministry Committee visits Turkey, discusses training with medical institutions, Libya Herald (Tripoli) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://libyaherald.com/2023/03/health-ministry-committee-visits-turkey-discusses-training-with-medical-institutions/>

<sup>2049</sup> President Erdoğan Inaugurated Kocaeli City Hospital, Ministry of Health of Türkiye (Ankara) 15 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 June 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR,95494/cumhurbaskani-erdogan-kocaeli-sehir-hastanesinin-acilisini-yapti.html>

<sup>2050</sup> Minister Koca Opened 83 Health Facilities in Konya, Ministry of Health of Türkiye (Ankara) 27 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 June 2023. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR,95572/bakan-koca-konyada-83-saglik-tesisinin-acilisini-gerceklestirdi.html>

<sup>2051</sup> Turkish Health Ministry extends scope of home care service for elderly, Daily Sabah (Ankara) 02 June 2023. Access Date: 25 June 2023. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/turkish-health-ministry-extends-scope-of-home-care-service-for-elderly/news>

<sup>2052</sup> 'Hospital for treatment of rare diseases to be setup in Istanbul', (Ankara) Daily Sabah 07 June 2023. Access Date: 25 June 2023. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/istanbul/hospital-for-treatment-of-rare-diseases-to-be-setup-in-istanbul>

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 28 November 2022, the Government announced over GBP113 million to fund research into four healthcare missions – cancer, obesity, mental health and addiction – to unlock the next generation of medicines and diagnostics to save lives, transform patient care and ensure UK patients are the first to benefit from medical breakthroughs.<sup>2053</sup>

On 9 December 2022, the Government awarded over GBP1.97 million organisations across the country to bolster innovative schemes that are improving the health of women in the workplace.<sup>2054</sup>

On 13 December 2022, the Government announced funding to create the most advanced genomic healthcare system in the world, helping to save lives and improve health outcomes.<sup>2055</sup> The Government also announced up to GBP25 million of UKRI-MRC funding for a UK-wide new initiative on functional genomics, an area of genomic research which uses molecular tools such as gene editing to improve understanding of how genetic variation leads to disease and support smarter diagnostics and the discovery of new treatments.

On 6 January 2023, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Steve Barclay signed memorandum of understanding with BioNTech SE to bring innovative vaccine research to England with the potential to transform outcomes for cancer patients.<sup>2056</sup> The collaboration would aim to deliver 10,000 personalised therapies to UK patients by 2030 through a new research and development hub creating jobs and strengthening the UK's position as a leader in global life sciences. The new partnership would help accelerate clinical trials of personalised immunotherapies for cancer and infectious disease vaccines.

On 12 January 2023, the Government pledged additional GBP10 million to speed up breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.<sup>2057</sup> Cancer diagnosis would be sped up for tens of thousands of women after the government had pledged an additional GBP10 million to provide 29 new NHS breast cancer screening units and nearly 70 life-saving upgrades to services in areas where they were most needed.

On 20 January 2023, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Health Minister Lord Nick Markham CBE and Thailand's Minister for Public Health and Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.<sup>2058</sup> Both countries committed to working together on genomics and understanding rare and undiagnosed diseases and cancer, as well as building stronger academic and institutional links through working groups that could start as early as February 2023.

On 25 January 2023, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency announced that the UK would be the first country to introduce a tailored framework for the regulation of innovative products manufactured at the point where a patient receives care.<sup>2059</sup>

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<sup>2053</sup> Government to use Vaccine Taskforce model to tackle health challenges, the UK Government (London) 28 November 2022 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-use-vaccine-taskforce-model-to-tackle-health-challenges>

<sup>2054</sup> GBP1.97 million awarded to support women in the workplace, the UK Government (London) 9 December 2022 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/197-million-awarded-to-support-women-in-the-workplace>

<sup>2055</sup> Over GBP175 million for cutting-edge genomics research, the UK Government (London) 13 December 2022 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-175-million-for-cutting-edge-genomics-research>

<sup>2056</sup> New partnership to boost research into vaccines for cancer, the UK Government (London) 6 January 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-to-boost-research-into-vaccines-for-cancer>

<sup>2057</sup> New breast cancer screening units to speed up diagnosis, the UK Government (London) 12 January 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-breast-cancer-screening-units-to-speed-up-diagnosis>

<sup>2058</sup> UK landmark genomic partnership with Thailand to unite against health threats, the UK Government (London) 20 January 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-landmark-genomic-partnership-with-thailand-to-unite-against-health-threats>

<sup>2059</sup> UK to introduce first-of-its-kind framework to make it easier to manufacture innovative medicines at the point of care, the UK Government (London) 25 January 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-introduce-first-of-its-kind-framework-to-make-it-easier-to-manufacture-innovative-medicines-at-the-point-of-care>

On 3 February 2023, the Government published the first ever medical technology (medtech) strategy.<sup>2060</sup> The medical technology strategy would ensure patients can access safe, effective and innovative equipment and medical devices.

On 6 February 2023, the UK Health Security Agency announced new and innovative projects involving the use of artificial intelligence chat bots, cartoon strips, night shelters and smart testing kits were among 14 schemes to benefit from a pioneering new fund to boost engagement and outreach activity to reduce sexual health inequalities across the country.<sup>2061</sup>

On 13 February 2023, the Government announced that tens of thousands of patients across the country would benefit from quicker access to tests, with 19 new community diagnostic centres which would perform 1.1 million tests, checks and scans every year set to open later this year.<sup>2062</sup>

On 16 February 2023, the Government announced that local authorities across the country would benefit from an extra GBP421 million government funding through to 2025 to improve drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery.<sup>2063</sup> The extra funding meant that total local authority funding for treatment would have increased 40 per cent between 2020 to 2021 and 2024 to 2025. It would enable the creation of over 50,000 high-quality places in drug and alcohol treatment.

On 28 February 2023, the Government published the Rare Diseases Action Plan. It would ensure those living with these conditions receive better care and treatment, fairer access to testing and have continued support.<sup>2064</sup>

On 3 March 2023, the Government announced that it would invest nearly GBP16 million into pioneering artificial intelligence (AI) research. Due to the program tens of thousands of patients across the country could benefit from quicker, earlier diagnoses and more effective treatments for a range of conditions.<sup>2065</sup>

On 8 March 2023, the Government announced that five projects aimed at reducing drug use were awarded GBP734,000 of the first allocation of a GBP5 million grant, with the remaining funding available across 2 further phases.<sup>2066</sup> As part of phase 1 of the Government's drug strategy innovation fund, the 10-year drugs plan would see the successful applicants begin the initial stage of their projects offering a range of education-based programmes, skills development for young people and community outreach.

On 25 July 2023, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has launched its 3-year strategy to combat both new and re-emerging threats and to protect health security.<sup>2067</sup> The 6 strategic priorities for UKHSA laid out in the strategy are to be ready to respond to all hazards, improve health outcomes through vaccines, reduce the impact of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, protect health from threats in the

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<sup>2060</sup> New strategy to boost NHS access to innovative medical technology<sup>6</sup> the UK Government (London) 3 February 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-strategy-to-boost-nhs-access-to-innovative-medical-technology>

<sup>2061</sup> Innovative projects to trial new ways to improve sexual health and HIV outcomes, the UK Government (London) 6 February 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovative-projects-to-trial-new-ways-to-improve-sexual-health-and-hiv-outcomes>

<sup>2062</sup> One-stop shops for testing deliver over 3 million potentially lifesaving checks, tests and scans, the UK Government (London) 13 February 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-stop-shops-for-testing-deliver-over-3-million-potentially-lifesaving-checks-tests-and-scans>

<sup>2063</sup> GBP421 million to boost drug and alcohol treatment across England, the UK Government (London) 16 February 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/421-million-to-boost-drug-and-alcohol-treatment-across-england>

<sup>2064</sup> England Rare Diseases Action Plan to tackle health inequalities, the UK Government (London) 28 February 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/england-rare-diseases-action-plan-to-tackle-health-inequalities>

<sup>2065</sup> Thousands of patients to benefit from quicker diagnosis and more accurate tests from ground-breaking AI research, the UK Government (London) 13 March 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-patients-to-benefit-from-quicker-diagnosis-more-accurate-tests-from-ground-breaking-ai-research>

<sup>2066</sup> GBP5 million innovation fund to reduce drug use, the UK Government (London) 8 March 2023 Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-innovation-fund-to-reduce-drug-use>

<sup>2067</sup> UKHSA launches new strategy to tackle national and global health hazards, the UK Government (London) 25 July 2023 Access Date: 24 August 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-new-strategy-to-tackle-national-and-global-health-hazards>

environment, improve action on health security through data and insight, develop UKHSA as a high-performing agency.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. The United Kingdom has taken steps that match all the key spheres of the commitment.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nikita Shilikov*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 22 November 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced a new USD350 million initiative for HRSA-supported health centers to increase Covid-19 vaccines in their communities, with a specific focus on underserved populations. This funding would support health centers administering updated Covid-19 vaccines through mobile, drive-up, walk-up, or community-based vaccination events, including working with community-based organizations, and other efforts to increase the administration of Covid-19 vaccines.<sup>2068</sup>

On 20 December 2022, the Administration made promoting competition and protecting consumers a top priority. In support of President Joe Biden’s Executive Order on promoting competition and the Administration’s commitment to transparency, HHS was releasing ownership data for all Medicare-certified hospitals.<sup>2069</sup>

On 19 January 2023, HSS released a report entitled: “Marking the 50th Anniversary of Roe: Biden-Harris Administration Efforts to Protect Reproductive Health Care,” which outlined the actions HHS had taken in the face of the health crisis precipitated by the Dobbs decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*.<sup>2070</sup>

On 14 February 2023, HSS, through the Administration for Children and Families, announced a new proposed regulation to lessen obstacles in licensing standards for kinship foster caregivers. This proposed rule aligns with President Biden’s priorities on providing necessary resources to keep families together and support kinship care.<sup>2071</sup>

On 5 May 2023, Secretary Xavier Becerra, at the HHS Mental Health Summit, announced new initiatives by the Biden-Harris Administration to increase access to mental health resources and support.<sup>2072</sup> The two initiatives – FindSupport.gov a user-friendly, online guide that helps people navigate through common

<sup>2068</sup> HHS Announces New \$350 Million Initiative to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations, the US Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/11/22/hhs-announces-new-350-million-initiative-increase-covid-19-vaccinations.html>

<sup>2069</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Continues Unprecedented Efforts to Increase Ownership Transparency in Health Care Settings, the US Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023 <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/12/20/biden-harris-administration-continues-unprecedented-efforts-increase-ownership-transparency-health-care-settings.html>

<sup>2070</sup> HHS Releases Report Detailing Biden-Harris Administration Efforts to Protect Reproductive Health Care Since Dobbs, the US Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 19 January 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/01/19/hhs-releases-report-detailing-biden-harris-administration-efforts-protect-reproductive-health-care-since-dobbs.html>

<sup>2071</sup> HHS Announces New Proposed Foster Family Licensing Regulation to Help Expand Access to Kinship Caregiving, the US Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 14 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/14/hhs-announces-new-proposed-foster-family-licensing-regulation.html>

<sup>2072</sup> Secretary Becerra Announces New Initiatives at HHS Mental Health Summit to Strengthen Access to Mental Health Care, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 5 May 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/05/secretary-becerra-announces-new-initiatives-hhs-mental-health-summit-to-strengthen-access-to-mental-health-care.html>

questions and the HHS Children and Youth Resilience Challenge program seeking for innovative community-led solutions to promote resilience in children and adolescents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters – will increase access to health resources and support for those working to address mental health challenges.

On 19 May 2023, the HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than USD65 million to 35 HRSA-funded health centers to address the maternal mortality crisis.<sup>2073</sup> Health centers are local organizations that provide comprehensive, high-quality primary health care services tailored to their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay. Innovative approaches that will be supported by this funding include offering bilingual doula services, leveraging health technology to reach rural patients, and providing culturally aware mental and behavioral health care for pregnant women and their families.

On 8 June 2023, the HHS released the STI Federal Implementation Plan to detail how various agencies and departments across the federal government are taking a comprehensive approach to making meaningful and substantive progress in improving public health.<sup>2074</sup> New plan contained more than 200 actions that federal stakeholders will take to protect the public's health by addressing the growing threat of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in America.

On 7 July 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced actions to protect consumers from junk health plans, surprise medical bills, and excess costs that lead to medical debt.<sup>2075</sup> Rules to empower and protect consumers through changes aimed at distinguishing short-term, limited-duration insurance and fixed indemnity insurance. These actions build on the Biden-Harris Administration's effort to lower health care costs for American seniors and families.

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. The United States has taken action on two priority areas: ramp up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare including additional financing of the HRSA, improving education and broadening social services by licensing standards for kinship foster caregivers. Positive dynamic may lead to changes in scoring in the future.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nikita Shilikov*

### **European Union: +1**

European Union has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining universal health coverage (UHC) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 30 November 2022, the European Commission adopted a new EU Global Health Strategy to improve global health security and deliver better health for all in a changing world.<sup>2076</sup> The Strategy puts forward three key interrelated priorities in dealing with global health challenges: 1) Deliver better health and well-being of people across the life course; 2) Strengthen health systems and advance universal health coverage; 3) Prevent and combat health threats, including pandemics, applying a One Health approach. The plan also contains the actions to generate more effective funding by promoting innovative finance, pooling of

<sup>2073</sup> HHS Announces Over \$65 Million to Address the Maternal Health Crisis and Invest in New Approaches to Care, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 19 May 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/19/hhs-announces-over-65-million-address-maternal-health-crisis-invest-new-approaches-care.html>

<sup>2074</sup> HHS Releases First-Ever STI Federal Implementation Plan, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 8 June 2023 Access Date: 27 June 2023 <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/08/hhs-releases-first-ever-sti-federal-implementation-plan.html>

<sup>2075</sup> HHS Announces Actions to Protect Consumers and Lower Health Care Costs, The U.S./ Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2023 Access Date: 25 August 2023 <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/07/hhs-announces-actions-protect-consumers-and-lower-health-care-costs.html>

<sup>2076</sup> EU Global Health Strategy to improve global health security and deliver better health for all, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_7153](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7153).

resources internationally, and co-investing by partner countries and other actors, such as the private sector. Together, the EU and its Member States are amongst the largest funders of global health in the world, the Strategy will make this important financial contribution to global health even more impactful by closer mapping and monitoring of impact.

On 30 November 2022, the Commission published its first State of Health Preparedness Report. The Report highlights the progress made in the fields of preparedness and response since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, focusing in particular on medical counter measures.<sup>2077</sup> The report builds on the three priority health threats identified in July 2022 of pathogens with high pandemic potential; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, and threats resulting from antimicrobial resistance. It sets out key actions to further improve EU's preparedness in the next year. The next steps for better preparedness in medical countermeasures focus on four axes with concrete actions for 2023, including developing medical countermeasures with a budget of EUR100 million to support innovative and strategic projects developing medical countermeasures against priority cross-border health threats. The European Commission will also invest up to EUR80 million in "COVID-19 Vaccines 2.0" projects to foster the development of next generation vaccines, with the aim of finding promising technologies that can be used beyond Covid-19. Next steps also include assessing threats and gathering intelligence and develop the Medical Countermeasures Intelligence (MCM) Platform; improving the resilience of supply chains and production capacity through strengthening the EU's capacity to quickly manufacture lifesaving medical countermeasures in times of crisis; and increasing international coordination and global collaboration.

On 9 December 2022, following the Commission's proposal to strengthen cancer prevention through early detection, the Council of the European Union adopted a new approach on cancer screening.<sup>2078</sup> This is an important step to improve early detection throughout the EU, an important goal of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

On 1 January 2023, Invest4Health, a EUR5.5 million Horizon Europe project launched. It aims to incentivise new ways of financing health promotion and disease prevention.<sup>2079</sup> It uses a model called "smart capacitating investment" in which long-term financial benefits to health and related sectors outweigh initial costs and deliver a sustainable return on investment.

On 6 January 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal to give more time to certify medical devices to mitigate the risk of shortages. The proposal introduces a longer transition period to adapt to new rules, as foreseen under the Medical Devices Regulation.<sup>2080</sup> The new deadlines depend on the medical devices' risk class and will ensure continued access to medical devices for patients. It will also allow medical devices placed on the market in accordance with the current legal framework and that are still available to remain on the market (i.e., no "sell-by" date).

On 5 June 2023, the European Commission and the World Health Organization announced the launch of a landmark digital health partnership.<sup>2081</sup> The partnership will include close collaboration in the development, management and implementation of the WHO system, benefitting from the European Commission's ample technical expertise in the field. The WHO will also take up the European Union (EU) system of digital COVID-19 certification.

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<sup>2077</sup> European Health Union: first State of Health Preparedness Report shows EU's strong progress, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_7154](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7154).

<sup>2078</sup> European Health Union: Commission welcomes adoption of new EU cancer screening recommendations, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_7548](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7548).

<sup>2079</sup> Mobilising novel finance models for health promotion and disease prevention, European Commission (Brussels) 1 January 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101095522>.

<sup>2080</sup> Public health: more time to certify medical devices to mitigate risks of shortages, European Commission (Brussels) 6 January 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_23](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_23).

<sup>2081</sup> Digital Health: Commission and WHO launch landmark digital health initiative to strengthen global health security. Access Date: 29 June 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3043](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3043)

On 7 June 2023, the European Commission adopted a communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.<sup>2082</sup> The approach includes twenty initiatives and EUR1.23 billion in EU funding. EU action on mental health will focus on three guiding principles: (i) adequate and effective prevention, (ii) access to high quality and affordable mental healthcare and treatment, and (iii) reintegration into society after recovery.

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable recovery that builds towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs. It took actions on all four priority areas: ramp up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare; engage the private sector and unlock new models for health financing and delivery; improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs; change the models of UHC financing.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>2082</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Access Date: 29 June 2023. [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/com\\_2023\\_298\\_1\\_act\\_en.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/com_2023_298_1_act_en.pdf)