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# 2023 G20 New Delhi Summit Interim Compliance Report

11 September 2023 to 19 May 2024

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### 3. Health: Access to Affordable Healthcare

“[We will] facilitate equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in Low-and-Middle-income Countries (LMICs), LDCs [least developed countries] and SIDS [small island developing states].”

*G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration*

#### Assessment

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

#### Background

Health has been addressed by G20 leaders since the Toronto Summit in 2010.<sup>343</sup>

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders affirmed the importance of “social safety nets” including public health care systems to “help strengthen [economic] resilience...and promote more stable growth.”<sup>344</sup>

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders encouraged compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO)’s International Health Regulations.<sup>345</sup> G20 leaders emphasized the importance of this to address disease outbreaks.

<sup>343</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicate.html>

<sup>344</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicate.html>

<sup>345</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 leaders pledged to provide funding, medical personnel and medical countermeasures to address the Ebola Virus outbreak.<sup>346</sup> This included financing international efforts to support countries in Western Africa such as “Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali and Nigeria.” G20 leaders also reiterated the importance of strengthening global health systems to respond to infectious diseases. In 2014, they started to make health commitments, producing 33 on joint partnerships and financial assistance to address the Ebola Virus outbreak.<sup>347</sup> Efforts focused on supporting low- and middle-income countries by providing financial aid, medical personnel, equipment and medications.

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders acknowledged the importance of addressing “global health risks, such as antimicrobial resistance, infectious disease threats and weak health systems.”<sup>348</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders reiterated the importance of research and development to address the ongoing health threat posed by antimicrobial resistance.<sup>349</sup> G20 leaders also committed to addressing access and affordability concerns for antimicrobials.

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to establishing universal health coverage and strengthening health systems worldwide.<sup>350</sup> G20 leaders also called for increased funding and cooperation between members, other countries and international organizations to improve “global health capacities,” support the “WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme” and continue research and development.

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards establishing high quality and affordable health systems to work towards universal health coverage.<sup>351</sup> G20 leaders also committed to supporting the “prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies,” in accordance with the WHO’s International Health Regulations.

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders committed to financing medical personnel and cost-effective innovations to strengthen public health systems.<sup>352</sup> G20 leaders also reiterated their pledge to address communicable diseases such as Ebola, polio, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders declared goals to address the COVID-19 pandemic through financial assistance for the “research, development, manufacturing and distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.”<sup>353</sup> G20 leaders emphasized the importance of international coordination through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and other efforts.

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<sup>346</sup> G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>347</sup> G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>348</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communication.html>

<sup>349</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

<sup>350</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>351</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>352</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>353</sup> Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

At the 2021 Rome Summit, G20 leaders committed to “vaccinating at least 40 per cent of [the global population] by the end of 2021 and 70 per cent by mid-2022.”<sup>354</sup> G20 leaders also pledged to increase the access to vaccines and medical countermeasures in developing countries.

At the 2022 Bali Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to universal health coverage and the strengthening of health systems.<sup>355</sup> G20 leaders also reiterated their pledge to provide “equitable and universal access to safe, affordable, quality and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics” for Covid-19.

Building on previous commitments, the 2023 New Delhi Summit focused on strengthening affordable healthcare systems, while working to improve access to medical diagnostic and treatment options as well as vaccines.<sup>356</sup> This commitment falls under the theme of “One Earth, One Family, One Future” established as part of India’s G20 Presidency. At the 2023 New Delhi Summit, G20 leaders committed to implementing the One Health approach to improve global health systems.<sup>357</sup> This holistic approach focuses on sustainable and inclusive health coverage to improve physical and mental health, address infectious diseases, engage in pandemic preparedness and conduct research and development. G20 members also committed to ensuring the safe and equitable access to high quality “vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures.” These efforts will prioritize LMICs, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2023 New Delhi summit, G20 leaders committed to “facilitate equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in Low-and-Middle-income Countries (LMICs), LDCs and SIDS.”<sup>358</sup>

### **Definitions and Concepts**

“Facilitate” is understood to mean “to make [something] easier; to help bring (something) about; [or] to help (something, such as a discussion) run more smoothly and effectively.”<sup>359</sup>

“Equitable” should be interpreted to mean “fair and just as indicated by law.”<sup>360</sup>

“Access” is understood to mean “the right to obtain or make use of the entity in reference.”<sup>361</sup> The WHO characterizes access as “a broad concept that measures three dimensions of key health sector interventions.”

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<sup>354</sup> G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 9 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/211031-declaration.html>

<sup>355</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

<sup>356</sup> G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 10 September 2023. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html>

<sup>357</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

<sup>358</sup> G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 10 September 2023. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2023/G20-New-Delhi-Leaders-Declaration.pdf>

<sup>359</sup> Facilitate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/facilitate>

<sup>360</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2024. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>361</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2024. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

“Safe” is understood to mean “free from harm or risk.”<sup>362</sup>

“Effective” refers to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures that result in a “decided, decisive, or desired effect.”<sup>363</sup>

“Quality-assured” means that the products or services have undergone a “process that looks at activities or products on a regular basis to make sure they are being done at the required level of excellence.”<sup>364</sup>

“Affordable” is understood to mean “not expensive.”<sup>365</sup>

A “vaccine” is “a preparation that is administered (as by injection) to stimulate the body’s immune response against a specific infectious agent or disease: such as” an “inactivated or attenuated” antigen, a “pathogenic agent (such as a bacterium or virus) or one of its components or products (such as a protein or toxin)” or “a preparation of genetic material” that results in the formation of an “antigenic substance.”<sup>366</sup> A vaccine may also be “a preparation or immunotherapy that is used to stimulate the body’s immune response against noninfectious substances, agents, or diseases.”

“Therapeutics” are understood to mean “treatment[s] of disease or disorders by remedial agents or methods.”<sup>367</sup>

“Diagnostics” are understood to mean “methods or systems for discovering the cause of a problem, illness, etc.”<sup>368</sup>

“Medical countermeasures” are defined as “medicines and medical supplies that can be used to diagnose, prevent, or treat diseases related to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) threats.”<sup>369</sup> Medical countermeasures include “[b]iologic products [such as] vaccines, blood products and antibodies, [d]rugs [including] antimicrobial or antiviral drugs and [d]evices [including] diagnostic tests to identify threat agents and personal protective equipment.”

“LMICs” are defined as countries with a gross national income of USD13,845 or lower.<sup>370</sup>

According to the United Nations, “LDCs” are defined as “countries that have low levels of income and face severe structural impediments to sustainable development.”<sup>371</sup>

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<sup>362</sup> Safe, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/safe>

<sup>363</sup> Effective, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/effective>

<sup>364</sup> Quality assurance, National Cancer Institute n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/quality-assurance>

<sup>365</sup> Affordable, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/affordable>

<sup>366</sup> Vaccine, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vaccine>

<sup>367</sup> Therapeutic, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/therapeutic>

<sup>368</sup> Diagnostic, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/diagnostic>

<sup>369</sup> Medical Countermeasures, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/orr/readiness/mcm2-508.html>

<sup>370</sup> Low and middle income countries and regions, International Statistical Institute (The Hague) n.d. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.isi-web.org/low-and-middle-income-countries-and-regions>

<sup>371</sup> Least Developed Countries Category, The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Developing States (New York) n.d. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>

According to the United Nations, “SIDS” are a “distinct group of 39 States and 18 Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.”<sup>372</sup>

**General Interpretive Guidelines**

This commitment can be broken down into two overarching dimensions, to be further broken down: 1) facilitating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures in LMICs, LDCs, and SIDS and 2) focusing actions on LMICs, LDCs and SIDS to facilitate equitable access to medical countermeasures. To achieve full compliance, G20 members must strongly comply with most aspects in both areas.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G20 members that take actions to facilitate the equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures and focus actions on LMICs, LDCs and SIDS to facilitate equitable access to medical countermeasures. This commitment can be further broken down into several parts. Part 1 requires members to take action to facilitate access to 1) vaccines, 2) therapeutics, 3) diagnostics and 4) other medical countermeasures that are 1) safe, 2) effective, 3) quality-assured and 4) affordable. In addition to this, actions must be equitable. As such, Part 2 of the commitment requires that the aforementioned four elements must be made accessible for 1) LMICs, 2) LDCs and 3) SIDS.

In order to achieve full compliance, G20 members must take international action to satisfy the “equitable” component of the commitment that focuses on three country groupings identified above. Full compliance for this commitment requires the G20 member to take strong action across most of Part 1 and most of Part 2 of the commitment. Examples of strong actions include donating vaccines and other medical countermeasures to LDCs, streamlining the production and procurement of medical countermeasures between companies and recipients, offering financial aid to support public health services, cooperating with the pharmaceutical sector to increase the availability of medical countermeasures, developing programs to vaccinate populations against infectious diseases and signing or ratifying international treaties.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G20 members that take action in all of Part 1 or Part 2 of the commitment or take strong action in some aspects of both Part 1 and Part 2 (i.e. addressing access to vaccines and therapeutics in one small island state) or take less strong/weak action across many or most of the criteria of Part 1 and Part 2. G20 members will achieve partial compliance if they take domestic action across the four elements defined in Part 1. For example, if they facilitated access to quality-assured and affordable vaccines and therapeutics in a remote community, but not in an LMIC, LDC or SIDS, this would count as partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G20 member fails to take action towards Part 1 or Part 2 of the commitment or the G20 member has only taken weak action in a few criteria of Part 1 and Part 2 but not most/many criteria. Examples of weak actions include verbally reaffirming the commitment, releasing statements recognizing the need for equitable access to medical countermeasures or participating in bilateral meetings where the topic is discussed.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The G20 member has not taken any action towards Part 1 or Part 2 of the commitment or has only taken weak action on one or fewer of the criteria of Part 1 or Part 2.
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<sup>372</sup> About Small Island Developing States, The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Developing States (New York) n.d. Access Date: 4 February 2024. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>.

0	The G20 member has taken action in all of Part 1 or Part 2 of the commitment or has taken strong action in some aspects of both Part 1 and Part 2 or has taken weak action on two of the criteria of Part 1 and Part 2.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action on three or more of Part 1 of the commitment, which requires members to take action to facilitate access to 1) vaccines, 2) therapeutics, 3) diagnostics and 4) other medical countermeasures that are a) safe, b) effective, c) quality-assured and d) affordable and also across most of Part 2 of the commitment, which requires that the aforementioned four elements must be made accessible for a) low- and middle-income countries, b) least developed countries and c) small island developing states.

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### **Argentina: 0**

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 11 January 2024, the Ministry of Health and the National Agri-Food Health and Quality Service (Senasa) held a meeting to strengthen the surveillance, control and prevention framework for Western Equine Encephalitis.<sup>373</sup> Senasa and provincial ministries reached a consensus to prioritize the distribution of vaccines to the most affected areas.

On 19 January 2024, the Ministry of Health announced a series of regulations for the prescription and marketing of medicines under decree 63/2024.<sup>374</sup> Decree 63/2024 establishes conditions for the prescription and distribution of medications by health professionals as well as the marketing of over-the-counter medications in establishments other than pharmacies.<sup>375</sup> The measures aim to reduce the cost of medication, ensure the safety, quality and effectiveness of prepared and imported medicines in accordance with established standards and improve the application of the regulatory framework.<sup>376</sup>

On 20 February 2024, Chief of Staff Nicolás Posse Minister of Health Mario Russo and the Minister of Human Capital Sandra Pettovello announced the transfer of purchasing high-cost medications to the Ministry of Health.<sup>377</sup> The initiative aims to improve organizational efficiency and transparency and support patients experiencing health and social vulnerabilities.

<sup>373</sup> Salud y Senasa refuerzan el trabajo con las provincias para el control y prevención de la Encefalitis Equina del Oeste, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 11 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-y-senasa-refuerzan-el-trabajo-con-las-provincias-para-el-control-y-prevencion-de-la>

<sup>374</sup> Decreto 63/2024: DECTO-2024-63-APN-PTE – Disposiciones, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/301967/20240122>

<sup>375</sup> Reglamentación para la prescripción de medicamentos y su comercialización, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 22 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024.

<sup>376</sup> Decreto 63/2024: DECTO-2024-63-APN-PTE – Disposiciones, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/301967/20240122>

<sup>377</sup> La asistencia para la compra de medicamentos a personas en situación de vulnerabilidad social y sanitaria fue transferida al Ministerio de Salud, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 20 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-asistencia-para-la-compra-de-medicamentos-personas-en-situacion-de-vulnerabilidad-social>



On 1 March 2024, the Ministry of Health presented a preventative vaccination strategy against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).<sup>378</sup> Government officials and scientific societies supported incorporating the RSV vaccine into the National Vaccination Calendar. This initiative aims to protect newborns under six months of age against bronchiolitis.

On 7 March 2024, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) published recommendations in response to the dengue outbreak across Argentina and other regions in the Americas.<sup>379</sup> To prevent and control the current outbreak, PAHO suggests strengthening surveillance, eliminating mosquito breeding sites, timely patient care for rapid detection and collaborating with communities.

On 7 March 2024, Minister Russo met with representatives from different non-governmental organizations for cancer patients and rare and chronic pathologies.<sup>380</sup> During the meeting, health authorities reaffirmed their commitment to continue providing high-cost medications to vulnerable populations.

On 11 March 2024, Minister Russo held a meeting with the minister of the province of Rio Negro, Ana Senesi, to strengthen efforts and establish a common agenda between different jurisdictions and the national health portfolio. The meeting aims to improve the management of national health care resources.

On 19 March 2024, Minister Russo and the representative of PAHO in Argentina Eva Jané Llopis officially launched the “Federal Network of References for the Care of People with Arboviral Diseases.”<sup>381</sup> The initiative aims to strengthen coordinated actions between the Ministry of Health and 24 jurisdictions in Argentina for the detection, prevention and care of patients with these diseases.

On 25 March 2024, the Ministry of Health launched the national flu vaccination campaign to reduce infection, hospitalization, complications and death among at risk populations of the influenza virus.<sup>382</sup> The vaccination campaign is free for the specified at-risk populations.

On 25 March 2024, Minister Russo met with health ministers from 24 jurisdictions across the country to advance collaborative actions and address challenges in healthcare.<sup>383</sup> The meeting provided a

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<sup>378</sup> Se presentó frente a las sociedades científicas la vacuna contra el Virus Sincicial Respiratorio, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 1 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 March 2024.

<sup>379</sup> El Ministerio de Salud de la Nación y la Organización Panamericana de la Salud difunden recomendaciones ante el brote de dengue, Ministerio de Salud (Argentina) 7 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-y-la-organizacion-panamericana-de-la-salud-difunden>

<sup>380</sup> Russo recibió a representantes de ONGs de pacientes oncológicos, patologías poco frecuentes y crónicas (Buenos Aires) 7 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/russo-recibio-representantes-de-ongs-de-pacientes-oncologicos-patologias-poco-frecuentes-y>

<sup>381</sup> Salud y OPS trabajan para fortalecer la respuesta al dengue con la conformación de la Red Federal de Referentes para la Atención de Personas con Enfermedades Arbovirales, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-y-ops-trabajan-para-fortalecer-la-respuesta-al-dengue-con-la-conformacion-de-la-red>

<sup>382</sup> Salud inició la campaña de vacunación contra la gripe, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-inicio-la-campana-de-vacunacion-contr-la-gripe>

<sup>383</sup> Russo convocó a los ministros de Salud de todo el país, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/russo-convoco-los-ministros-de-salud-de-todo-el-pais>

platform to reallocate healthcare resources based on changing epidemics and outbreaks, establish priorities for the general health agenda and align provincial policies with the healthcare priorities.

On 9 April 2024, the Ministry of Health and PAHO organized a joint National Immunization Workshop ahead of Vaccination Week of the Americas.<sup>384</sup> The meeting aimed to identify gaps in policy to improve vaccination coverage and prevent the reintroduction of diseases, recognize immunization coverage progress and further discuss the logistics for upcoming strategies.

On 16 April 2024, the Secretary of Quality in Health Leonardo Busso represented Argentina at the World Renal Policy Forum organized by the International Society of Nephrology.<sup>385</sup> The meeting provided a platform for key actors to discuss the impact of kidney diseases, strategies and better management practices on a local and international level. During the meeting, Secretary Busso highlighted Argentina's approach to tackling the issue by emphasizing prevention and care through its progression.

On 22 April 2024, the Ministry of Health launched the Winter Campaign of the Low Acute Respiratory Infections Program.<sup>386</sup> Leaders from various jurisdictions provided key metrics and addressed common challenges and solutions to strengthen primary care. In addition, the Ministry of Health purchased medications to protect against and treat respiratory infections. The campaign aims to prevent and treat these diseases which pose a threat to vulnerable populations specifically children.

On 23 April 2024, the Ministry of Health and PAHO reinforced local health systems' approach to managing dengue cases.<sup>387</sup> The Ministry incorporated a series of workshops for healthcare professionals and public outreach programs. The initiative aims to strengthen local health system capacities and improve the quality and effectiveness of health care by introducing coordinated efforts across jurisdictions and healthcare professions.

On 26 April 2024, the Ministry of Health signed an agreement to improve healthcare services with the National Directorate of Health Surveillance of Paraguay.<sup>388</sup> The initiative aims to facilitate collaborative efforts on the quality control, laboratory management and research and development of medical countermeasures.

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<sup>384</sup> En vísperas de la Semana de Vacunación en las Américas, el Ministerio de Salud y la OPS organizaron el Taller Nacional de Inmunizaciones, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 11 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-visperas-de-la-semana-de-vacunacion-en-las-americas-el-ministerio-de-salud-y-la-ops>

<sup>385</sup> Argentina participó del Foro Mundial de Política Renal, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 16 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-del-foro-mundial-de-politica-renal>

<sup>386</sup> Salud lanzó la Campaña de Invierno del Programa de Infecciones Respiratorias Agudas bajas, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-lanzo-la-campana-de-invierno-del-programa-de-infecciones-respiratorias-agudas-bajas>

<sup>387</sup> Salud refuerza las estrategias de manejo clínico de dengue en todo el país, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-refuerza-las-estrategias-de-manejo-clinico-de-dengue-en-todo-el-pais>

<sup>388</sup> Argentina y Paraguay firman un convenio para fortalecer servicios de salud, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 26 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-paraguay-firman-un-convenio-para-fortalecer-servicios-de-salud>

On 26 April 2024, the Ministry of Health distributed 80,400 doses of the Moderna mono-variant vaccine for COVID-19 to children across the country.<sup>389</sup> The initiative includes regular vaccination schedules and booster shots for children six months to 11 years of age.

On 26 April 2024, the Minister of Health met with President of the Bunge y Born Foundation Jorge Born and Executive Director Gerardo Della Paolera to further strengthen immunization efforts.<sup>390</sup> The Foundation publishes annual research on public perception of vaccines and barriers to access. The meeting established a joint commitment towards continued efforts to monitor, analyze and implement new policies and strategies to boost vaccination rates.

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Argentina has facilitated access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable medical care through streamlining the distribution of vaccines, establishing regulations for dispensing medications and meeting with various representatives to strengthen collaborative public health efforts. However, Argentina has not taken steps to engage with LMICs, LDCs or SIDS.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Fiona (Chenge) Wan*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 22 December 2023, the Department of Health and Aged Care announced that the National Immunization Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy Program would begin on 1 January 2024.<sup>391</sup> The government will provide financial remuneration to involved pharmacies for delivering eligible immunizations to individuals over five years of age. The goal of this initiative is to increase the accessibility and affordability of vaccines.

On 2 January 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care announced the expansion of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to provide cheaper medications for advanced ovarian cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, small lymphocytic lymphoma, cystic fibrosis and atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome.<sup>392</sup> This will increase access to affordable medications for over 1,200 Australians living with these illnesses.

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<sup>389</sup> Salud distribuyó a todo el país vacunas monovariante contra COVID-19 para población pediátrica, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 26 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-distribuyo-todo-el-pais-vacunas-monovariante-contra-covid-19-para-poblacion>

<sup>390</sup> Russo mantuvo un encuentro con el presidente de la Fundación Bunge y Born, Ministerio de Salud (Buenos Aires) 26 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/russo-mantuvo-un-encuentro-con-el-presidente-de-la-fundacion-bunge-y-born>

<sup>391</sup> Launch of the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 22 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/launch-of-the-national-immunisation-program-vaccinations-in-pharmacy-nipvip-program?language=en>

<sup>392</sup> Expanded PBS listings make vital treatments more affordable, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 2 January 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/expanded-pbs-listings-make-vital-treatments-more-affordable?language=en>

On 1 February 2024, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced the expansions of available medicines in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.<sup>393</sup> This initiative will increase the affordability of otherwise expensive medicines for those with advanced melanoma and relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

On 4 February 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care announced up to AUD20 million for a national research program to develop treatments and carry out clinical trials for childhood brain cancers such as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma.<sup>394</sup> This initiative aims to produce better data, enable priority individuals to access clinical trials and ultimately ensure that new treatments can be assessed for safety and effectiveness as quickly as possible.

On 6 February 2024, Minister Butler announced AUD35 million in funding for a manufacturing facility for bioengineered corneas, which will be made available globally.<sup>395</sup> In light of the lack of cornea tissue donations, this initiative will increase access to countermeasures for blind patients.

On 19 February 2024, Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong and Minister for International Development and the Pacific Pat Conroy announced an initiative to address HIV, malaria, antimicrobial resistance and other health challenges in Papua New Guinea which is a SIDS.<sup>396</sup> Funding will support research, training and efforts to develop medical countermeasures to prevent malaria in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere.

On 20 February 2024, Minister Butler announced AUD50 million in funding “to develop and commercialize the world’s most advanced artificial heart.”<sup>397</sup> This promising technology is expected to lower up to 50 per cent of deaths from heart failure globally and while making heart transplants more accessible to patients of various ages.

On 20 February 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care announced that a specialised endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic will open in Bardon.<sup>398</sup> This initiative aims to increase efficient access to information and treatment for endometriosis.

On 1 March 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care announced the expansion of medicines with 60-day prescriptions under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.<sup>399</sup> The expansion will facilitate access to medication for patients with relatively long-term needs. The anticipated expansion will reach 300 medicines by September 2024.

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<sup>393</sup> Cheaper medicines for advanced melanoma and multiple sclerosis, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 1 February 2024. Access date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/cheaper-medicines-for-advanced-melanoma-and-multiple-sclerosis>

<sup>394</sup> \$20 million to find new treatments for DIPG and other childhood brain cancers, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/20-million-to-find-new-treatments-for-dipg-and-other-childhood-brain-cancers?language=en>

<sup>395</sup> \$35 million to fight blindness with manufactured corneas, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 6 February 2024. Access date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/35-million-to-fight-blindness-with-manufactured-corneas?language=en>

<sup>396</sup> Investing in our region's health, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 20 May 2024. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/investing-our-regions-health>

<sup>397</sup> \$50 million to develop world-leading artificial heart, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 20 February 2024. Access date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/50-million-to-develop-world-leading-artificial-heart?language=en>

<sup>398</sup> New Bardon clinic for endometriosis and pelvic pain, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-ged-kearney-mp/media/new-bardon-clinic-for-endometriosis-and-pelvic-pain?language=en>

<sup>399</sup> More medicines available for 60-day prescriptions, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 5 March 2024. Access date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/more-medicines-available-for-60-day-prescriptions?language=en>

On 13 March 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care opened applications for the 2024 International Clinical Trial Collaborations grant opportunity.<sup>400</sup> A total amount of AUD12.6 million is available. The initiative aims to provide international trials, medications or medical devices to the general public. In addition to strengthening Australia's role in collaborative international research initiatives.

On 24 March 2024, the Ministry for International Development and the Pacific provided AUD17 million funding to the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis.<sup>401</sup> The goal of this initiative is to introduce and research novel tuberculosis treatments with a focus on the Western Pacific and Southeast Asian region. By working collaboratively with countries in this region, Australia aims to improve the affordability of tuberculosis treatments in Lower Income Countries.

On 25 April 2024, Minister Wong and Minister Conroy announced up to AUD30 million in aid to combat malaria in the Pacific and Southeast Asia which includes a number of SIDS, LMICs and LDCs.<sup>402</sup> Of this, AUD5 million will go to James Cook University to improve surveillance and control mechanisms for malaria, dengue and zika, AUD8 million will go to PATH for new diagnostic tests and AUD17 million will support new medical treatments for malaria “including medicines suitable for use in pregnancy and for children.”

On 29 April 2024, NIPVIP subsidized vaccinations administered in residential senior and disability homes, aiming to expand access to the free National Immunization Program.<sup>403</sup>

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Australia has taken strides to increase accessibility safe, effective and affordable vaccines, medications and other therapeutics for its citizens through the National Immunization Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy Program, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and other measures. Australia has also invested in innovative countermeasures such as the development of an artificial heart and bioengineered corneas for improved health globally.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tara Behtashi*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 20 December 2023, the Ministry of Health announced that the Unified Health System (which guarantees universal and free access to a range of medical services) will be distributing 12,000 units of

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<sup>400</sup> \$12.6 million to support international clinical trials in Australia and evidence-based health care, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/mrff-126-million-to-support-international-clinical-trials-in-australia-and-evidence-based-health-care?language=en>

<sup>401</sup> Investing in the next generation of Tuberculosis treatment, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 24 March 2024. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/investing-next-generation-tuberculosis-treatment>

<sup>402</sup> Eliminating malaria in our region, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 25 April 2024. Access Date: 20 May 2024. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/eliminating-malaria-our-region>

<sup>403</sup> Expansion of the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program, Department of Health and Aged Care (Canberra) 24 April 2024. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/expansion-of-the-national-immunisation-program-vaccinations-in-pharmacy-nipvip-program?language=en>

benznidazole 12.5 mg to address pediatric cases of Chagas disease.<sup>404</sup> As the medication was not available through the Unified Health System for the past eight years, this represents an important shift to increase access to an effective treatment for Chagas disease in children.

On 9 January 2024, the Ministry of Health announced the conclusion of its distribution of 5.6 million units of the dolutegravir 50mg and lamivudine 300mg nationally.<sup>405</sup> In combination, these drugs provide effective antiretroviral therapy for individuals with HIV or AIDS.

On 18 January 2024, the Government of Brazil announced BRL393 million in funding for Hemobrás to complete the development of an immunoglobulin factory which expects to “process up to 500 thousand liters of plasma annually.”<sup>406</sup> This will ensure that Brazilians have access to blood products like plasma which are necessary to treat a range of health issues including inflammation and a lack of antibodies.

On 23 January 2024, the Ministry of Health announced BRL55 million in funding to prevent and treat leprosy nationally in 2024.<sup>407</sup> Funding will support improved diagnostic attempts and research for medications and treatments for leprosy.

On 9 February 2024, the Ministry of Health and Cuban counterparts met in Havana for the first Brazil-Cuba Binational Steering Committee meeting.<sup>408</sup> They committed to increased cooperation to develop vaccines and diagnose and treat “neglected diseases and populations” like sickle cell anemia, Chagas disease, dengue and neurodegenerative diseases. This partnership aims to combine the biotechnological capacity of Cuba, a LMIC and Brazil’s “industrial capacity for large-scale production” and access to markets to improve health outcomes through the development of effective vaccines and medications.

On 17 February 2024, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke at the opening of the 37th African Union Summit, reaffirming Brazil’s commitment to collaborating with African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to combat infectious diseases and pledged to expand access to vaccines to ensure equal access and prevent a repeat of “vaccine apartheid” seen in COVID-19.<sup>409</sup> This demonstrates Brazil’s recognition of the necessity of equitable access to vaccines internationally.

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<sup>404</sup> SUS retoma a distribuição de medicamento pediátrico contra a doença de Chagas, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 20 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/dezembro/sus-retoma-a-distribuicao-de-medicamento-pediatrico-contr-a-doenca-de-chagas>

<sup>405</sup> Saúde distribui 5,6 milhões de unidades de novo medicamento para tratamento do HIV, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 9 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/janeiro/saude-distribui-5-6-milhoes-de-unidades-de-novo-medicamento-para-tratamento-do-hiv>

<sup>406</sup> Hemobrás recebe aporte de R\$ 393 milhões para conclusão da fábrica de imunoglobulina, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 18 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/janeiro/hemobras-recebe-aporte-de-r-393-milhoes-para-conclusao-da-fabrica-de-imunoglobulina>

<sup>407</sup> Ministério da Saúde anuncia R\$ 55 milhões em ações de prevenção e tratamento da hanseníase, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 23 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/janeiro/ministerio-da-saude-anuncia-r-55-milhoes-em-acoes-de-prevencao-e-tratamento-da-hanseniase>

<sup>408</sup> Brasil e Cuba ampliam cooperação com assinatura de protocolo na área de ciência, tecnologia, inovação e complexo da saúde, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 9 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/fevereiro/brasil-e-cuba-ampliam-cooperacao-com-assinatura-de-protocolo-na-area-de-ciencia-tecnologia-inovacao-e-complexo-da-saude>

<sup>409</sup> Speech by President Lula at the opening of the 37th African Union Summit, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 17 February 2024. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/planalto/en/follow-the-government/speeches/president-lulas-speech-at-the-opening-of-the-37th-african-union-summit>

On 21 February 2024, the Government of Brazil began its free vaccination campaign against dengue in public schools across the country.<sup>410</sup> Following the World Health Organization's regulations, children aged 10 to 14 will receive the vaccine alongside their scheduled immunizations, regardless of their socioeconomic status, increasing the affordability of dengue vaccines.

On 22 February 2024, the Ministry of Health led the first meeting of the G20 Health Working Group with 170 delegates from 21 members and 30 international organizations.<sup>411</sup> At the meeting, Brazil proposed the creation of an Alliance for Regional Production and Innovation which aims to develop vaccines, medications, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures for a number of illnesses including dengue, malaria and tuberculosis. This proposal comes as part of Brazil's G20 Presidency.

On 6 March 2024, the Ministry of Health announced that they have begun to distribute flu vaccines nationally alongside the Butantan Institute and the National Institute for Health Quality Control.<sup>412</sup> This initiative aims to vaccinate 75 million vulnerable individuals including pregnant and breastfeeding women, children and the elderly through the Unified Health System thus increasing access to safe vaccines.

On 7 March 2024, President Lula da Silva announced that BRL11.6 billion would be invested to support the Ministry of Health under the project of New PAC Selections.<sup>413</sup> The investments will go towards constructing new polyclinics, maternity hospitals and increasing the number of basic health units and ambulances. This will ensure more people have adequate access to healthcare thereby addressing areas of vulnerability and inequality.

On 13 March 2024, the Ministry of Health announced BRL30 million to support the diagnosis and quality-assured treatment of rare diseases.<sup>414</sup> This aims to increase access to timely and effective care for these illnesses under the Unified Health System.

On 15 March 2024, the Ministry of Health delivered 4,000 treatment regimens of tafenoquine 150mg (a medication used to cure malaria) to the Yanomami Special Indigenous Health District in Yanomami territory in Roraima.<sup>415</sup> This was the first region in Brazil to receive tafenoquine.

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<sup>410</sup> Governo Federal inicia mobilização contra a dengue nas escolas, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 21 February 2024. Translation provided by DeepL. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/fevereiro/governo-federal-inicia-mobilizacao-contra-a-dengue-nas-escolas>

<sup>411</sup> Com foco na redução das desigualdades, GT Saúde realiza primeira reunião no G20, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 23 February 2024. Translation provided by DeepL. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/fevereiro/com-foco-na-reducao-das-desigualdades-gt-saude-realiza-primeira-reuniao-no-g20>

<sup>412</sup> Ministério da Saúde começa distribuição das vacinas contra a gripe, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 6 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/ministerio-da-saude-comeca-distribuicao-das-vacinas-contra-a-gripe>

<sup>413</sup> Novo PAC Seleções investe R\$ 23 bilhões em saúde, educação, esporte e cultura, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 7 March 2024. Translation provided by DeepL. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/novo-pac-selecoes-investe-r-23-bilhoes-em-saude-educacao-esporte-e-cultura>

<sup>414</sup> Saúde anuncia R\$ 30 milhões para ampliar assistência a doenças raras, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 6 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/saude-anuncia-r-30-milhoes-para-ampliar-assistencia-a-doencas-raras>

<sup>415</sup> Território Yanomami é a primeira região do Brasil a receber medicamento para cura da malária, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 15 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/territorio-yanomami-e-a-primeira-regiao-do-brasil-a-receber-medicamento-para-cura-da-malaria>

On 15 March 2024, the Minister of Health Nísia Trindade, announced BRL629 million in investments from the Growth Acceleration Program for medical equipment.<sup>416</sup> This includes funding for a public health laboratory and radiotherapy equipment in areas that previously did not have access to it. As such, this initiative focuses on expanding health care services and constructing infrastructure to support the provision of medical countermeasures, patient care and diagnostic assessment.

On 18 March 2024, the National Audit Department of the Unified Health System and the Department of the National Immunization Program prepared a protocol to improve the National Immunization Program.<sup>417</sup> The initiative aims to evaluate the logistical process for immunization, which includes ensuring immunobiologicals are stored, handled and transported in a manner that aligns with established regulations. The audit ultimately supports the safety and quality of vaccines delivered to the Brazilian population.

On 18 March 2024, the Ministry of Health announced a BRL208 million investment to expand mobile oral health care units to reach 800,000 people in over 395 municipalities.<sup>418</sup> Under the new Growth Acceleration Program, the initiative aims to reach socially vulnerable populations.

On 22 March 2024, the Ministry of Health pledged that BRL100 million would be invested in initiatives combating tuberculosis with funds directed towards regions with vulnerable or at-risk populations.<sup>419</sup>

On 22 March 2024, the Ministry of Health announced that it would allocate BRL312 million for the Basic Component of Pharmaceutical Assistance, promoting and facilitating access to medicines, treatments and medical countermeasures.<sup>420</sup>

On 27 March 2024, the Ministry of Health announced that an additional 165 municipalities will receive dengue vaccines, thus expanding the country's vaccination campaign to increasingly address areas of high transmission and vulnerability.<sup>421</sup>

On 27 March 2024, the Ministry of Health reported an investment of BRL1.65 billion to build 55 polyclinics to increase citizens' access to diagnostic support, specialized clinical services, medical exams

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<sup>416</sup> Ministra anuncia 182 equipamentos de saúde para o Rio Grande do Sul, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 15 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/ministra-anuncia-182-equipamentos-de-saude-para-o-rio-grande-do-sul>

<sup>417</sup> Auditoria do SUS e departamento de imunização se unem para aprimorar logística de vacinação, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 18 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/auditoria-do-sus-e-departamento-de-imunizacao-se-unem-para-aprimorar-logistica-de-vacinacao>

<sup>418</sup> Novo PAC Saúde quadruplica atendimento odontológico móvel nos municípios, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 18 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/novo-pac-saude-quadruplica-atendimento-odontologico-movel-nos-municipios>

<sup>419</sup> Ministério da Saúde anuncia incentivo de R\$ 100 milhões para ações pelo fim da tuberculose, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 22 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/ministerio-da-saude-anuncia-incentivo-de-r-100-milhoes-para-acoes-pelo-fim-da-tuberculose>

<sup>420</sup> Incremento de R\$ 312 milhões para a assistência farmacêutica reforça combate à dengue, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 22 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/incremento-de-r-312-milhoes-para-a-assistencia-farmaceutica-reforca-combate-a-dengue>

<sup>421</sup> Mais 165 municípios serão contemplados com doses de vacinas contra a dengue, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 27 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/mais-165-municipios-serao-contemplados-com-doses-de-vacinas-contr-a-dengue>



and medical procedures.<sup>422</sup> These polyclinics will be built across 24 states in the country and aim to provide medical aid including diagnostics and therapeutics to over 19.2 million individuals.

On 13 April 2024, the Ministry of Health announced its plan to vaccinate 130,000 Indigenous people in Brazil, administering approximately 240,000 doses.<sup>423</sup> This represents the federal government's initiative to increase comprehensive vaccinations coverage in Indigenous territories particularly in regions with challenging geographical accessibility.

On 16 April 2024, the Ministry of Health stated that BRL150 million would be committed to supporting vaccination programs across Brazil, with the goal of increasing immunization against infectious diseases for children under 15.<sup>424</sup>

On 18 April 2024, President Lula da Silva and Colombian President Gustavo Petro signed a joint statement reaffirming the importance of their health cooperation, increasing local vaccine production capabilities and the promotion of Indigenous health.<sup>425</sup>

On 19 April 2024, the Ministry of Health signed a contract for the purchase of 12.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>426</sup> This will increase access to medical countermeasures for infectious diseases.

On 25 April 2024, the Ministry of Health announced it would expand dengue vaccination to over 625 new municipalities and 6 Brazilian states, increasing access to vaccines.<sup>427</sup>

On 26 April 2024, the Ministry of Health announced it would be providing a new Malaria drug called Artesunate + Mefloquine to be used for children in Brazil's Yanomami indigenous population.<sup>428</sup> The drug is easier to consume and has fewer side effects which is critical for controlling Malaria.

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<sup>422</sup> Em ação inédita, governo federal vai construir 55 policlínicas distribuídas em todas as regiões, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 27 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024.

<https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/marco/em-acao-inedita-governo-federal-vai-construir-55-policlinicas-distribuidas-em-todas-as-regioes>

<sup>423</sup> Ministério da Saúde inicia plano para vacinar 130 mil indígenas, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 13 April 2024.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/ministerio-da-saude-inicia-plano-para-vacinar-130-mil-indigenas>

<sup>424</sup> Saúde destina R\$ 150 milhões para apoiar estratégias de vacinação em todo o Brasil, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 16 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/saude-destina-r-150-milhoes-para-apoiar-estrategias-de-vacinacao-em-todo-o-brasil>

<sup>425</sup> Brasil e Colômbia reafirmam estratégias conjuntas para a cooperação em saúde, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 18 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/brasil-e-colombia-reafirmam-estrategias-conjuntas-para-a-cooperacao-em-saude>

<sup>426</sup> Ministério da Saúde assina contrato para compra de 12,5 milhões de doses da vacina contra a Covid-19, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 20 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024.

<https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/ministerio-da-saude-assina-contrato-para-compra-de-12-5-milhoes-de-doses-da-vacina-contr-a-covid-19>

<sup>427</sup> Ministério da Saúde amplia vacinação da dengue para mais 6 estados, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 25 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/ministerio-da-saude-amplia-vacinacao-da-dengue-para-mais-6-estados>

<sup>428</sup> Saúde disponibilizará novo tratamento contra a malária para crianças, Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 26 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/saude-disponibilizara-novo-tratamento-contr-a-malaria-para-criancas>

On 26 April 2024, President da Silva participated in the inauguration of the Biommm insulin production plant.<sup>429</sup> The government's investment of BRL800 million has enabled the plant to fulfill Brazil's demand for insulin thereby enhancing access to medicine for patients with diabetes.

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Brazil has taken strong action to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable medical countermeasures through vaccination campaigns and funding for medications and treatments to address a number of illnesses including HIV/AIDS and rare diseases. Brazil has also taken equitable action on an international scale by committing to collaborate with the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and establishing a health partnership with Cuba which is a LMIC. However, it has not taken access to facilitate medical countermeasures to LDCs or SIDS.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Zainab Ibraheem*

### **Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 18 December 2023, Minister of Health Mark Holland announced the creation of the Canadian Drug Agency (CDA) which aims to address the safety and effectiveness of medications, improve the use of medications and increase the collection and access to drug and treatment data.<sup>430</sup> The CDA will replace and expand upon the objectives of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). As such, the CDA will benefit from CAD34.2 million in annual funding which was previously provided to the CADTH alongside an additional CAD89.5 million over a five-year period.

On 19 December 2023, the Government of Canada announced CAD94 million to improve Prince Edward Island's healthcare system.<sup>431</sup> Over the next three years, funding will be used to improve access to diagnostics, increase the number of healthcare professionals and build Patient Medical Homes and Mobile Mental Health Units. The Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island will also coordinate with Indigenous communities "to support improved access to quality and culturally appropriate health care services."

On 21 December 2023, Minister Holland and Alberta's Minister of Health Adriana LaGrange announced CAD1.06 billion in federal funding over the next three years to improve healthcare in

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<sup>429</sup> Presidente acompanha retomada da produção de insulina no Brasil em Nova Lima (MG), Ministério da Saúde (Brasília) 26 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2024/abril/presidente-acompanha-retomada-da-producao-de-insulina-no-brasil-em-nova-lima-mg>

<sup>430</sup> The Government of Canada announces the creation of the Canadian Drug Agency, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/12/the-government-of-canada-announces-the-creation-of-the-canadian-drug-agency---helping-make-canadas-drug-system-more-sustainable-and-better-prepared.html>

<sup>431</sup> Canada signs \$94 million bilateral agreement with Prince Edward Island to improve health care over three years, Health Canada (Cornwall) 19 December 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/12/canada-signs-94-million-bilateral-agreement-with-prince-edward-island-to-improve-health-care-over-three-years.html>

Alberta.<sup>432</sup> In part, funding will be used to increase access to diagnostic services like MRIs and CT scans, develop new and improved treatment centres for mental health and substance use and increase access to quality assured and culturally appropriate care for Indigenous communities.

On 8 February 2024, the Government of Canada announced the services to be included in the Canadian Dental Care Plan launched last December.<sup>433</sup> The new services will be run under SunLife, allowing for a reduction in the cost of dental care, both by insurance and out-of-pocket visits.

On 27 February 2024, Minister Holland committed to CAD12.6 million in funding to provide more care and services to those, mainly indigenous and LGBTQ2S+, who are suffering or at risk of HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) in British Columbia.<sup>434</sup> The rates of STBBI have doubled since 2012 leading to the launch of the 2024-2030 STBBI action plan which sets to bring in CAD2.45 million to set up educational material and help our community-based organizations.<sup>435</sup>

On 28 February 2024, Minister Holland announced CAD20 million in funding over the next five years to address pediatric rare diseases.<sup>436</sup> Funding will be provided to Dr. Thierry Lacaze-Masmonteil and the Maternal Infant Child and Youth Research Network to develop a clinical trial and treatment network to support children and adolescents living with rare diseases. In doing so, the government hopes to support the improved prevention, diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases affecting children and teens.

On 29 February 2024, Minister Holland announced Bill C-64 which acts as phase one of a universal pharmacare plan for Canada.<sup>437</sup> The bill focuses on the federal government's plan to coordinate with the provinces and territories to ensure universal coverage for contraceptives and diabetes medication thus improving access to affordable treatment.

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<sup>432</sup> Canada signs more than \$1 billion bilateral agreement with Alberta to improve health care over three years, Health Canada (Calgary) 21 December 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/12/canada-signs-more-than-1-billion-bilateral-agreement-with-alberta-to-improve-health-care-over-three-years.html>

<sup>433</sup> Government of Canada announces the services covered under the Canadian dental care plan, Health Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-the-services-covered-under-the-canadian-dental-care-plan.html>

<sup>434</sup> Government of Canada supports community-based projects addressing HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, Public Health Agency of Canada (Surrey) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-supports-community-based-projects-addressing-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-other-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections0.html>

<sup>435</sup> Government of Canada releases 2024-2030 Action Plan on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 18 March 2024 <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-releases-2024-2030-action-plan-on-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections.html>

<sup>436</sup> Government of Canada invests \$20 million to improve health outcomes of children living with rare diseases, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 28 February 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-invests-20-million-to-improve-health-outcomes-of-children-living-with-rare-diseases.html>

<sup>437</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Legislation for First Phase of National Universal Pharmacare, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-for-first-phase-of-national-universal-pharmacar.html>

On 12 March 2024, the Government of Canada approved an investment of CAD86 million to improve health care services in Yukon.<sup>438</sup> These service improvements include greater accessibility to walk-in clinics and other family health services, expansion of mental health and addiction services, expansion of rural community home care and increased healthcare staff.

On 18 March 2024, Minister Holland, Saskatchewan's Minister of Health Everett Hindley and Saskatchewan's Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Tim McLeod announced the signing of two bilateral agreements to invest CAD560 million to support healthcare initiatives in Saskatchewan.<sup>439</sup> The initiative aims to improve family healthcare services, deliver culturally sensitive trauma-informed care and support palliative care programs.

On 12 April 2024, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen announced CAD132.2 million in funding for Sudan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan.<sup>440</sup> Of this, CAD100.7 million will go towards humanitarian assistance including emergency health services, food and water and shelter. CAD31.5 million will go towards development assistance of which CAD10.5 million will fund the United Nations Population Fund's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Services in Sudan project to "improve access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health interventions."

On 17 April 2024, the Government of Canada announced additional support to ensure all oral health providers can deliver care to patients under the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP).<sup>441</sup> CDCP allows all providers to directly bill Sun Life for services performed. This initiative aims to streamline services and procedures and improve the affordability and accessibility of dental care for CDCP clients.

On 29 April 2024, Member of Parliament for Ottawa South David McGuinty announced CAD1 million for Roger Neilson Children's Hospice.<sup>442</sup> Funding will be used to increase access to locally available pediatric palliative care.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. It has taken strong action to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable medical countermeasures nationally through bilateral agreements with provinces, the creation of the Canadian Drug Agency and funding for the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases. Canada has also taken action to engage with LDCs through its funding for Sudan and its neighbouring

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<sup>438</sup> Government of Canada signs agreements with Yukon delivering nearly 86 million to improve health care, Health Canada (Whitehorse) 12 March 2024. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/03/government-of-canada-signs-agreements-with-yukon-delivering-nearly-86-million-to-improve-health-care.html>

<sup>439</sup> Government of Canada signs two bilateral agreements with Saskatchewan to support initiatives to improve health care, Health Canada (Regina) 18 March 2024. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/03/government-of-canada-signs-two-bilateral-agreements-with-saskatchewan-to-support-initiatives-to-improve-health-care.html>

<sup>440</sup> Canada provides funding to Sudan and neighbouring countries to respond to humanitarian needs, Global Affairs Canada (Toronto) 12 April 2024. Access Date: 20 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/04/canada-provides-funding-to-sudan-and-neighbouring-countries-to-respond-to-humanitarian-needs.html>

<sup>441</sup> Supporting Oral Health Providers' Participation in the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Health Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/04/supporting-oral-health-providers-participation-in-the-canadian-dental-care-plan.html>

<sup>442</sup> Government of Canada Supports Roger Neilson Children's Hospice's Project: Enhancing Access to Pediatric Palliative Care, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2024. Access Date: 20 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/04/government-of-canada-supports-roger-neilson-childrens-hospices-project-enhancing-access-to-pediatric-palliative-care.html>

countries. However, Canada has not engaged with LMICS or SIDS to facilitate access to medical countermeasures.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kynzee Sethi*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 1 December 2023, the National Medical Products Administration announced a “national coordination network to combat thalassemia.”<sup>443</sup> The network will involve 101 Chinese hospitals which will coordinate with relevant medical institutions to improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research for thalassemia.

On 3 December 2023, health officials from China, Korea and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation at the 16th Tripartite Health Ministers’ Meeting.<sup>444</sup> The agreement prioritizes strategic cooperation for universal health coverage, emergency preparedness in response to infectious diseases and strengthening primary healthcare systems.

On 8 December 2023, Deputy Director of the National Health Commission’s International Cooperation Department He Zhaohua committed to continue sending medical aid abroad and strengthen collaboration efforts between domestic and foreign hospitals.<sup>445</sup> This emphasizes China’s promotion of equitable access to health in its engagement abroad.

On 13 December 2023, the National Healthcare Security Administration announced the expansion of China’s medical insurance list to include 126 new medications including anti-cancer, antiviral and COVID-19 medicines, medication for diabetes, mental disorders, chronic illnesses and rare diseases.<sup>446</sup> The addition of these medicines in the medical insurance list will help ensure access to affordable therapeutics with patients expected to save CNY40 billion over the next two years.

On 19 January 2024, the National Health Commission of China and the Health Commission of Anhui Province collaborated to donate medicines and medical equipment to Juba Teaching Hospital, the primary referral hospital in South Sudan.<sup>447</sup> This donation has significantly bolstered the hospital’s capacity to deliver medical treatments and services to its extensive patient population.

On 21 February 2024, the National Health Commission and six other departments released a report stating they have further strengthened the accessibility of nationwide tertiary public hospitals.<sup>448</sup> The

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<sup>443</sup> China establishes national coordination network to combat thalassemia, National Medical Products Administration (Beijing) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2024.

<sup>444</sup> China, ROK and Japan sign health memorandum, China Daily (Beijing) 4 December 2023. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/04/WS656d2cf6a31090682a5f13e5.html>

<sup>445</sup> China to continue sending medical aid abroad, China Daily (Beijing) 8 December 2023. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/08/WS65730e38a31040ac301a6e84.html>

<sup>446</sup> 126 drugs added to national basic cover, China Daily (Beijing) 15 December 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/15/WS657bb855a31040ac301a7f0a.html>

<sup>447</sup> China donates medicines, equipment to support health services in South Sudan, Xinhua (Juba) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://english.news.cn/africa/20240119/f782b2036186495f8d21122a332c916a/c.html>

<sup>448</sup> China continues to enhance public medical services, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-02/21/c\\_86293.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-02/21/c_86293.htm)

initiative aims to improve the capacity of these hospitals in handling various complex medical conditions.

On 2 March 2024, the National Healthcare Security Administration detailed a new campaign to increase newborns' health insurance coverage.<sup>449</sup> The administration outlined the need to make insurance processes more efficient and accessible by mobilizing nursery and healthcare facilities to raise awareness about insurance policies. In addition, the administration called for the monitoring of insurance rates and further research on reasons for the lack of enrollment. Increasing coverage will help ensure more citizens have access to medical countermeasures.

On 21 March 2024, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission Cao Xuetao held a meeting with the Regional Director for Western Pacific of the World Health Organization (WHO) Saia Ma'u Piukala.<sup>450</sup> During the meeting, China reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing cooperation in various sectors including universal health coverage, disease prevention and management and global health broadly, in-line with the China-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy.

On 22 March 2024, an official from the National Health Commission Li Dachuan announced plans to establish two national and five regional children's medical centers.<sup>451</sup> Additionally, China will support 67 clinical specialities related to pediatric health to improve access and quality of pediatric medical services.

On 25 March 2024, Minister Ma Xiaowei of the National Health Commission, participated in the seventh meeting of health ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).<sup>452</sup> During the meeting, topics such as health emergencies, telemedicine, the prevention and control of infectious diseases and primary health care were discussed. The meeting concluded with the action plan on Developing Cooperation in Healthcare between SCO Member States for 2025-2027 and the signing of a protocol, demonstrating China's commitment to health governance.

On 28 March 2024, Ambassador to the Maldives Wang Lixin and the Maldivian Minister of Health Abdulla Khaleel signed an agreement for China to provide laboratory equipment to Maldivian health centers.<sup>453</sup> This will help the Maldives to strengthen its healthcare capacity.

On 5 April 2024, the Chinese government provided anti-malaria drugs to Uganda in accordance with the Medical and Health Program proposed by President Xi Jinping, demonstrating China's commitment to facilitating access to medical countermeasures to LDCs.<sup>454</sup>

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<sup>449</sup> 医保办函〔2024〕14号, 国家医疗保障局 (Beijing) 2 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2024. [https://www-nhsa-gov-cn.translate.goog/art/2024/3/2/art\\_104\\_12148.html?\\_x\\_tr\\_sl=zh-CN&\\_x\\_tr\\_tl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_hl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_pto=sc&\\_x\\_tr\\_sch=http](https://www-nhsa-gov-cn.translate.goog/art/2024/3/2/art_104_12148.html?_x_tr_sl=zh-CN&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=sc&_x_tr_sch=http)

<sup>450</sup> NHC vice-minister meets with WHO regional director for western Pacific, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 March 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-03/25/c\\_86299.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-03/25/c_86299.htm)

<sup>451</sup> 医保办函〔2024〕14号, National Medical Security Administration (Beijing) 2 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2024. [https://www-nhsa-gov-cn.translate.goog/art/2024/3/2/art\\_104\\_12148.html?\\_x\\_tr\\_sl=zh-CN&\\_x\\_tr\\_tl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_hl=en&\\_x\\_tr\\_pto=sc&\\_x\\_tr\\_sch=http](https://www-nhsa-gov-cn.translate.goog/art/2024/3/2/art_104_12148.html?_x_tr_sl=zh-CN&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=sc&_x_tr_sch=http)

<sup>452</sup> NHC minister attends 7th SCO Health Ministers Meeting via video link, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 March 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-03/25/c\\_86297.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-03/25/c_86297.htm)

<sup>453</sup> China, Maldives sign exchange of notes on establishing lab equipment project for Maldivian health centers, China International Development Cooperation Agency (Beijing) 30 March 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. [http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2024-03/30/c\\_977826.htm](http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2024-03/30/c_977826.htm)

<sup>454</sup> Speech on the Handover Ceremony of the China-aided Anti-Malaria Medicine to Uganda, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Uganda (Kajjansi) 5 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. [https://ug.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgsw/202404/t20240410\\_11279442.htm](https://ug.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgsw/202404/t20240410_11279442.htm)

On 9 April 2024, Cao Xuetao, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission, and Alain Merieux, President of the Mériex Foundation, discussed the enhancement of France-China health cooperation.<sup>455</sup> The focus was primary on areas such as infection control, tuberculosis prevention and rational antibiotic use.

China has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. It has taken strong action to improve access to medical countermeasures domestically by increasing health insurance coverage, creating a network for thalassemia and promoting equitable access. However, China has not taken any steps to facilitate access to medical countermeasures in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Zainab Ibraheem*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 16 January 2024, France and Qatar provided medical aid to Israel and Palestine.<sup>456</sup> The aid consisted of medical supplies including medications purchased in France and transported to Egypt where the International Committee of the Red Cross coordinated distribution to ensure people in the Gaza Strip received necessary support medical packages and other supplies.

On 26 January 2024, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Solidarity announced its global health strategy for 2023 to 2027.<sup>457</sup> This strategy aims to promote equitable health systems, enhance public health preparedness and reinforce global health governance. The actions include establishing a World Health Organization Academy, engaging in international health negotiations, supporting multilateral health initiatives and launching the PREZODE initiative to combat pandemics and infectious diseases effectively.

On 21 February 2024, Minister of Labor, Health and Solidarity Catherine Vautrin, Minister Delegate for Industry and Energy Roland Lescure and Minister Delegate for Health and Comprehensive Prevention Frédéric Valletoux announced a new roadmap for 2024-2027 aimed at combating drug shortages.<sup>458</sup> This includes mandatory unit dispensing, regulatory flexibility and efforts to keep certain

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<sup>455</sup> NHC vice-minister meets with Merieux Foundation president, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China(Beijing) 12 April 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-04/12/c\\_86302.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2024-04/12/c_86302.htm)

<sup>456</sup> Qatar, France broker deal to get aid, medication to civilians, hostages in Gaza, Reuters (Paris) 16 January 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-france-broker-deal-get-aid-medication-civilians-hostages-gaza-2024-01-16>

<sup>457</sup> Stratégie française en santé mondiale (2023-2027), Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 26 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/la-sante-mondiale/article/strategie-francaise-en-sante-mondiale-2023-2027>

<sup>458</sup> Pénuries de médicaments : la ministre du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités, le ministre délégué chargé de l'Industrie et de l'Énergie et le ministre délégué chargé de la Santé et de la Prévention annoncent une nouvelle stratégie pour garantir la disponibilité des médicaments et assurer à plus long terme une souveraineté industrielle, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 21 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/penuries-de-medicaments-la-ministre-du-travail-de-la-sante-et-des-solidarites>

drugs on the market. This initiative aims to develop industrial sovereignty and ensuring the availability of essential medications throughout France.

On 26 February 2024, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Solidarity announced that the French Ambassador in Egypt and the Associate Minister for International Affairs of the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population are coordinating humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza.<sup>459</sup> As such, medical cargo worth EUR1 million, comprising of eight tons of medical equipment including medications, was delivered to Cairo on 25 February 2024. This initiative aims to bolster the Egyptian health system's capacity to treat injuries from Gaza.

On 28 February 2024, Minister Vautrin attended the first G7 health ministers' meeting chaired by Italy.<sup>460</sup> The session focused on advancing the International Agreement on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, aiming for its adoption at the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024.

On 1 March 2024, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Solidarity and the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty released a press statement announcing the 4th National Rare Disease Plan.<sup>461</sup> This plan introduces 132 new rare disease reference centers and reaffirms France's commitment to health data exchange with European counterparts. The plan seeks to enhance support for individuals with rare diseases through improved diagnostics, access to therapies and a bolstered territorial network.

On 4 April 2024, President Emmanuel Macron visited Brazil where he signed a declaration of intent to enhance longstanding health cooperation.<sup>462</sup> This agreement focuses on improving public health systems, advancing health technology and increasing cross-border health initiatives with French Guiana. Cooperation will also support increased vaccination production and access to medicines and health technologies.

On 21 March 2024, Director General of Health Grégory Emery gathered French and international experts at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Solidarity to discuss measles diagnostics within the

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<sup>459</sup> Égypte: poursuite de la coopération humanitaire en soutien à la population civile de Gaza, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 26 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/egypte-poursuite-de-la-cooperation-humanitaire-en-soutien-a-la-population>

<sup>460</sup> Mieux prévenir et répondre aux pandémies: communiqué conjoint des ministres de la santé du G7, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 29 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/cooperation-sante-mondiale/article/mieux-prevenir-et-repondre-aux-pandemies-communique-conjoint-des-ministres-de>

<sup>461</sup> Vers un 4ème Plan National Maladies Rares (PNMR4) Catherine Vautrin, Sylvie Retailleau, Roland Lescure et Frédéric Valletoux annoncent un soutien renforcé pour les personnes malades par un maillage territorial plus étroit avec la labellisation des nouveaux centres de référence maladies rares et le renforcement de la collecte des données de santé entre la France et l'Europe, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 1 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/vers-un-4eme-plan-national-maladies-rares-pnmr4-catherine-vautrin-sylvie>

<sup>462</sup> Relations France-Bésil en matière de santé: renforcer une coopération déjà ancienne et institutionnalisée, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 4 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/cooperation-bilaterale/article/relations-france-bresil-en-matiere-de-sante-renforcer-une-cooperation-deja>



National Network for the Surveillance of Measles network.<sup>463</sup> The meeting emphasized the importance of cooperative efforts and effective vaccination strategies to eradicate measles in France.

On 24 April 2024, Minister Lescure represented France in Brussels, advocating for the relocation of pharmaceutical production within Europe under the new European Alliance for Critical Medicines.<sup>464</sup> This effort is part of France's strategy to prevent drug shortages and strengthen medical sovereignty by improving industry competitiveness and environmental standards.

On 24 April 2024, Minister Delegate Valletoux published a new decree to improve access to quality abortion care.<sup>465</sup> The decree outlines regulations for healthcare provider training and recognizes the role of midwives.

France has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. France has taken action to facilitate access to medical countermeasures through its National Rare Disease Plan and 2024-2027 roadmap to address drug shortages. It has also international action increase access to medications and other medical countermeasures in Palestine which is a LMIC. However, France has not taken action to facilitate access to medical countermeasures in LDCs and SIDS.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alice Quan*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 13 December 2023, the federal cabinet approved Germany's national pharmaceutical strategy.<sup>466</sup> The strategy aims to increase digitalization and clinical trials, improve frameworks for research and development in the EU, support and increase research and development and provide incentives to the pharmaceutical sector to increase access to pharmaceuticals.

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<sup>463</sup> Une journée du Centre national de référence (CNR) des virus de la rougeole, de la rubéole et des oreillons (ROR) placée sous le signe des échanges internationaux, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 25 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/une-journee-du-centre-national-de-reference-cnr-des-virus-de-la-rougeole-de-la>

<sup>464</sup> Médicaments: la France appelle à une politique de relocalisation européenne, La Tribune (Paris) 24 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/chimie-pharmacie/medicaments-la-france-appelle-a-une-politique-de-relocalisation-europeenne-996123.html>

<sup>465</sup> Amélioration de l'accès à l'IVG : les conditions de réalisation des IVG instrumentales par les sages-femmes en établissements simplifiés, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 24 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/amelioration-de-l-acces-a-l-ivg-les-conditions-de-realisation-des-ivg>

<sup>466</sup> Nationale Pharmastrategie beschlossen, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 13 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/nationale-pharmastrategie-beschlossen-pm-13-12-23.html>

On 16 December 2023, Germany and the World Health Organization donated 20 ambulances to Ukraine.<sup>467</sup> These ambulances were equipped with devices that provide life-saving care to patients during transportation, which facilitates access to therapeutics and other medical countermeasures in Ukraine.

On 18 December 2023, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock spoke at the opening ceremony of a Rwandan mRNA vaccine plant focusing on German involvement to foster investments for the medical industry in the region.<sup>468</sup> Minister Baerbock cited Germany's commitment to an EU investment project worth EUR1.2 billion for the development of vaccine production in Rwanda, Senegal, Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria, of which Germany contributed half of the investment funds.

On 21 February 2024, Germany granted EUR2.5 million towards a project to improve healthcare in Libya in partnership with UNICEF and Libya's Ministry of Health.<sup>469</sup> The project aims to reach 175,000 people by training 260 staff for the Libyan health care system, stocking facilities and installing electronic vaccine tracking.

On 5 March 2024, the Foreign Minister stated that Germany would add an additional EUR20 million worth of aid for humanitarian assistance in Gaza.<sup>470</sup> This aid includes medicine, medical care and products such as dressings and syringes.

On 30 March 2024, the Foreign Minister called on the government of Israel to allow for the passage of medical supplies to the people of Gaza, for equitable access to healthcare.<sup>471</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. This commitment was achieved through investments in increasing the availability of medical countermeasures, as well as increasing equitable access to healthcare through the provision of humanitarian aid. Additionally, efforts from Germany demonstrate engagement with LMICS and LDCs.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ethan Lui*

## **India: 0**

India has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in

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<sup>467</sup> WHO, together with the Government of Germany, donates 20 ambulances to Ukraine to ensure emergency care provision during medical transportation amid the war, World Health Organization Europe (Copenhagen) 16 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/16-12-2023-who--together-with-the-government-of-germany--donates-20-ambulances-to-ukraine-to-ensure-emergency-care-provision-during-medical-transportation-amid-the-war>

<sup>468</sup> Speech by Foreign Minister Baerbock at the opening ceremony of the mRNA vaccine plant in Rwanda, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 18 December 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2636368>

<sup>469</sup> UNICEF Libya and Germany cooperate with the Libyan Ministry of Health to advance Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Libya [EN/AR], Relief Web (Tripoli) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/unicef-libya-and-germany-cooperate-libyan-ministry-health-advance-maternal-and-child-health-and-nutrition-libya-enar>

<sup>470</sup> Humanitarian disaster in Gaza – Germany has increased its humanitarian assistance, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/-/2627918>

<sup>471</sup> Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in an interview with the Funke media group, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 March 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/interview-funke/2651028>

low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 22 December 2023, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced an update on the launch of its digital health service program.<sup>472</sup> The program has enabled accessible healthcare to reach remote parts of the country allowing patients to seek healthcare services and access their digital patient records online.

On 7 January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare opened a new CDSCO Sub-Zonal Office and the Central Drug Testing Laboratory.<sup>473</sup> These new facilities will monitor and ensure medicines meet the quality requirements and hold pharmaceutical companies accountable.

On 24 January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated a new specialty block at the GSVM Medical College to improve the healthcare infrastructure in the city.<sup>474</sup> In part, the new facility will house 270 new patient beds and 30 ICU beds along with eight operation theaters with modern technology.

On 9 February 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched new measures to tackle healthcare challenges in rural areas as part of the National Rural Health Mission.<sup>475</sup> These new measures provide an additional INR700 billion of funding for local government over five years to use to enhance health care services in every village and town. The healthcare system will expand by covering more services such as communicable diseases and continue to build on its digital health infrastructure.

On 21 February 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare hosted a workshop to bring accessible and affordable healthcare to the Northeastern States of India.<sup>476</sup> The current goal is to work on Essential Health Technology for essential medicine and to make health technologies more readily available, accessible and affordable.

On 29 February, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced the Cabinet approval of the new post of Director of the National Institute of One Health.<sup>477</sup> This new position will be designated to organize efforts on disease control and pandemic preparedness. The director will manage the new National One Health Mission introduced for integrated disease control in India.

On 24 April, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced the meeting between Union Health Secretary of India and CEO of the pharmaceutical company Bilthoven Biologicals to strengthen

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<sup>472</sup> India is Choosing Digital Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 22 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

[https://abdm.gov.in:8081/uploads/Press\\_Information\\_Bureau\\_website\\_11\\_1e66eae20a.pdf](https://abdm.gov.in:8081/uploads/Press_Information_Bureau_website_11_1e66eae20a.pdf)

<sup>473</sup> Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates CDSCO Sub Zonal Office and Central Drug Testing Laboratory in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 7 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1994024>

<sup>474</sup> Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates Super Specialty Block at GSVM Medical College in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 24 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1999176>

<sup>475</sup> Measures Taken to Address Healthcare Challenges in Rural Areas. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 9 February 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2004363>

<sup>476</sup> Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates “Regional Consultative Workshop on Research Priority for Providing Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for the Northeastern States of India”, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2007650>

<sup>477</sup> Cabinet Approves Creation of Post of Director of National Institute of One Health, Nagpur at the Level of Scientist ‘H’ (pay level-15) to spearhead National One Health Mission for Integrated Disease Control and Pandemic Preparedness, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 14 March 2024. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2010137>

partnerships concerning vaccine production.<sup>478</sup> The meeting covered the EU pandemic readiness partnership and continued efforts to produce more vaccines. This initiative supports India's Universal Immunization Programme and increased global vaccine supply.

India has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. India has taken strong action to facilitate access to affordable, quality-assured and effective healthcare in the country, with a specific focus on diseases. Moreover, it has contributed immensely in funding to create new facilities to improve the healthcare system. However, India has not engaged with LMICs, LDCs or SIDS in this regard.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kevin Li*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 5 December 2023, the Ministry of Health launched the building of Indonesia's only plasma fractionation factory in partnership with other groups.<sup>479</sup> The initiative will expand the availability of plasma products, such as Albumin and Immunoglobulin, to treat a variety of medical conditions in Indonesia.

On 6 December 2023, the Ministry of Health opened Farmaplus 2.0, a website designed for Indonesians to access information about medicines available in their communities.<sup>480</sup> In addition, citizens can contact the facility offering the medicine, see prices and consult details relevant to the use of the medicine. The primary aim of this initiative is to enhance the accessibility of medicines for the population.

On 8 January 2024, Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi announced that Indonesia has acquired 516 million vaccines for COVID-19.<sup>481</sup> This will improve national access to vaccines.

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<sup>478</sup> Union Health Secretary visits pharmaceutical Bilthoven Biologicals, Netherlands; has engaging meeting with CEO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 24 April 2024 Access Date: 30 April 2024.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2018755>

<sup>479</sup> Menkes Resmikan Pembangunan Fasilitas Fraksionasi Plasma Pertama di Indonesia, Kemenkes Ditjen Farmalkes (South Jakarta) 22 December 2023. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024.

<https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/2023/12/menkes-resmikan-pembangunan-fasilitas-fraksionasi-plasma-pertama-di-indonesia/>

<sup>480</sup> Semakin Transparan, Masyarakat Bisa Langsung Cek Stok dan Harga Obat Lewat Farmaplus 2.0, Kemenkes Ditjen Farmalkes (South Jakarta) 6 December 2023. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024.

<https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/>

2023/12/semakin-transparan-masyarakat-bisa-langsung-cek-stok-dan-harga-obat-lewat-farmaplus-2-0/

<sup>481</sup> Diplomasi Kesehatan Indonesia Berhasil Amankan Lebih Dari 500 juta Dosis Vaksin COVID-19, Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia (Bandung) 8 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/5666/berita/diplomasi-kesehatan-indonesia-berhasil-amankan-lebih-dari-500-juta-dosis-vaksin-covid-19>

On 18 January 2024, Minister of Defense Prabowo Subianto sent the Indonesian Ship Hospital Dr. Radjiman-Wedyodiningrat 992 to deliver humanitarian assistance to Palestine.<sup>482</sup> This included 460 boxes of medication.<sup>483</sup>

On 26 January 2024, the Ministry of Health initiated the Vaccine Collaborating Center focusing on training, partnerships, regulation and data.<sup>484</sup> It aims to improve the national accessibility of vaccines, offer more advanced vaccines and be better equipped against a future pandemic.

On 31 January 2024, the Directorate General of Pharmacy and Medical Devices of the Ministry of Health Agusdini Banun Saptaningsih performed an educational visit to Sempu village.<sup>485</sup> The Directorate General provided guidance on the safe and effective use of medical devices and other medical supplies. Moreover, blood glucose and blood pressure measurements were taken from 600 people to promote early diagnosis of diseases.

On 2 February 2024, Indonesia spearheaded the Global Alliance to fight tuberculosis at the United Nations with 22 countries joining the alliance as of 5 February.<sup>486</sup> The Alliance aims to promote knowledge sharing, establish frameworks to address tuberculosis, accelerate the development of a vaccine for tuberculosis and develop consistent treatment options overall.

On 15 February 2024, the Directorate General Saptaningsih officiated a partnership with two companies, Kimia Farma and Rajawali Nusindo, regarding the pilot project for the health data platform Satu Sehat Logistik.<sup>487</sup> This partnership shows progress in improving the digitalization of drug stock management, which will include the Digital Inventory National.

On 26 February 2024, the Ministry of Health implemented the Strengthening Indonesia's Healthcare Referral Network, Strengthening of Primary Healthcare in Indonesia and the Indonesia – Public Laboratory System Strengthening Components projects.<sup>488</sup> They total to USD4 billion and aim to fill gaps in laboratory and medical equipment in laboratory and public health facilities across Indonesia.

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<sup>482</sup> Menhan Prabowo Lepas Keberangkatan Kapal RS TNI KRI dr Radjiman-992 Kirim Bantuan untuk Palestina, Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia (Jakarta Pusat) 18 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 March 2024. <https://www.kemhan.go.id/2024/01/18/menhan-prabowo-lepas-keberangkatan-kapal-rs-tni-kri-dr-radjiman-992-kirim-bantuan-untuk-palestina.html#>

<sup>483</sup> Naval ship returns to Indonesia after unloading aid for Palestinians, Antara News (Central Jakarta) 17 February 2024. Access Date: 15 March 2024. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/306234/naval-ship-returns-to-indonesia-after-unloading-aid-for-palestinians>

<sup>484</sup> Kemenkes Luncurkan Inisiatif VOLARE, Percepat Pengembangan dan Penguasaan Teknologi Terbaru Vaksin, Kemenkes Ditjen Farmalkes (South Jakarta) 29 January 2024. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/2024/01/kemenkes-luncurkan-inisiatif-volare-percepat-pengembangan-dan-penguasaan-teknologi-terbaru-vaksin/>

<sup>485</sup> Ditjen Farmalkes, Lakukan KIE Pengawasan Produk Alat Kesehatan dan PKRT pada Masyarakat Desa Sempu, Kemenkes Ditjen Farmalkes (South Jakarta) 31 January 2024. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/2024/01/ditjen-farmalkes-lakukan-kie-pengawasan-produk-alat-kesehatan-dan-pkrt-pada-masyarakat-desa-sempu/>

<sup>486</sup> Indonesia Pimpin Pembentukan Aliansi Global di PBB untuk Lawan Tuberkulosis, Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia (New York) 5 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/5733/berita/indonesia-pimpin-pembentukan-alian-si-global-di-pbb-untuk-lawan-tuberkulosis>

<sup>487</sup> Ditjen Farmalkes Wujudkan Transformasi Teknologi Kesehatan Melalui Pengembangan Sistem Digital Inventory National (DIN), Kemenkes Ditjen Farmalkes (South Jakarta) 15 February 2024. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/2024/02/ditjen-farmalkes-wujudkan-transformasi-teknologi-kesehatan-melalui-pengembangan-sistem-digital-inventory-national-din/>

<sup>488</sup> 4th Vendor Conference – Indonesia Health Systems Strengthening Project, the Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/eng/4th-vendor-conference-indonesia-health-systems-strengthening-project>

On 7 March 2024, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Minister of Finance Mulyani Indrawati sent 10 million doses of the polio vaccine to Afghanistan, with the support of UNICEF.<sup>489</sup> This donation would enable 3.3 million children below three to be vaccinated against polio.

On 26 March 2024, the Ministry of Health released an updated Technical Guidelines for Drug Needs Planning which the WHO helped to create.<sup>490</sup> By bolstering drug supply planning and addressing previous shortcomings, these guidelines will enable better accessibility to medical countermeasures.<sup>491</sup>

On 3 April 2024, Indonesia sent humanitarian assistance amounting to IDR30 billion to the State of Palestine and Sudan, including medical supplies.<sup>492</sup>

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Indonesia has taken strong action to facilitate access to safe and free vaccines in Afghanistan which is a LDC and medications in Palestine which is a LMIC. It has also taken international action to form an alliance to address tuberculosis. Domestically, Indonesia has acquired access to vaccines and invested in improving medical equipment.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tara Behtashi*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 5 December 2023, Minister of Health Orazio Schillaci and Councillor for Welfare of the Lombardy Region Guido Bertolaso signed a Memorandum of Understanding for healthcare cooperation.<sup>493</sup> In part, cooperation will address the access and effectiveness of healthcare and implement modernized biomedical technologies that enable improved diagnosis and treatment. The Government of Italy will contribute EUR376,867,616.74 to this initiative.

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<sup>489</sup> Indonesia Sends 10 Million Polio Vaccine Doses to Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Central Jakarta) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 15 March 2024.

<https://www.kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/5799/berita/indonesia-sends-10-million-polio-vaccine-doses-to-afghanistan>

<sup>490</sup> Technical Guidelines for Drugs Needs Planning, Ministry of Health Directorate General of Pharmaceuticals (South Jakarta) 26 March 2024. Access date: 27 April 2024. <https://farmalkes.kemkes.go.id/en/unduh/petunjuk-teknis-perencanaan-kebutuhan-obat/>

<sup>491</sup> WHO supports Ministry of Health to launch new technical guidelines on medicine procurement planning, World Health Organization (Jakarta) 22 April 2024. Access date: 27 April 2024.

<https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/22-04-2024-who-supports-ministry-of-health-to-launch-new-technical-guidelines-on-medicine-procurement-planning>

<sup>492</sup> Pengiriman Bantuan Kemanusiaan dari Indonesia: Dukungan untuk Palestina dan Sudan, Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia (Jakarta) 3 April 2024. Translation by Google Translate. Access date: 27 April 2024.

<https://www.kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/5849/berita/pengiriman-bantuan-kemanusiaan-dari-indonesia-dukungan-untuk-palestina-dan-sudan>

<sup>493</sup> Assistenza ospedaliera, Ministero e Regione Lombardia firmano Protocollo d'Intesa, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 5 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6002](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6002)

On 29 December 2023, Minister Schillaci addressed the approved 2024 budget law which includes provisions on healthcare.<sup>494</sup> Over the next three years, Italy will provide EUR11.2 billion to support healthcare personnel, provide territorial assistance and funding for Alzheimer's and Dementia, develop "Next-Generation Sequencing Tests" for rare diseases and support migrant populations. Italy will also now allow pharmacies affiliated with the National Health Service, but not located in hospitals, to dispense medications in order to increase access to locally available medicines.

On 29 January 2024, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni pledged EUR 5.5 billion for the Mattei Plan, the Italian agenda for development in the African continent through non-predatory practices.<sup>495</sup> One of the projects announced under the plan was the improvement of accessible and quality-assured healthcare in the Ivory Coast, including training and exchange programs for healthcare workers, telemedicine and investment in medical education.<sup>496</sup>

On 5 February 2024, the Ministry of Health hosted the "Technical working table in the sector of drug supply in Italy."<sup>497</sup> During the meeting, the permanent working group announced that an additional 38,000 packages had been secured of Creon 10,000 IU which is a medication that treats pancreatic enzyme deficiency. This aims to increase access to the medication for those in need.

On 16 February 2024, the Ministry of Health announced that citizens will be able to apply for benefits to cover the costs of psychotherapy sessions from 18 March to 31 May.<sup>498</sup> This initiative is designed to help lower-income Italian citizens access mental health services at an affordable cost.

On 28 February 2024, Minister Schillaci along with other G7 Health Ministers discussed preventative strategies and health emergency responses.<sup>499</sup> Health Ministers also discussed ways to leverage technological innovations to prevent chronic and non-communicable diseases. The goal of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration and reduce the risk of public health crises in the future.

On 5 April 2024, the Ministry of Health announced the list of 334 biomedical research projects that would receive funding from the National Recovery and Resistance Plan.<sup>500</sup> This funding consists of over EUR312 million and will go towards research on rare diseases, rare tumors and chronic non-communicable diseases with a high social impact.

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<sup>494</sup> Bilancio 2024, Schillaci: "Importante impegno per la salute, più risorse per valorizzare operatori sanitari e migliorare i servizi," Ministero della Salute (Rome) 29 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6005](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6005)

<sup>495</sup> What we know about the Italian development plan for Africa, Reuters (Rome) 29 January 2024. Access Date: 15 March 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/what-we-know-about-italian-development-plan-africa-2024-01-29/>

<sup>496</sup> Vertice Italia-Africa, l'introduzione del Presidente Meloni nella conferenza stampa finale, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 29 January 2024. Access Date: 15 March 2024. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/vertice-italia-africa-lintroduzione-del-presidente-meloni-nella-conferenza-stampa-finale>

<sup>497</sup> Riunito il Tavolo sull'approvvigionamento farmaci: annunciato lo sblocco di un lotto Creon, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 5 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6014](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6014)

<sup>498</sup> "Bonus psicologo 2023": dal 18 marzo online la piattaforma INPS per richiedere la nuova misura di sostegno, Ministro della Salute (Rome) 16 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024. [https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6483](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6483)

<sup>499</sup> G7, Schillaci apre la prima riunione dei Ministri della Salute: "Condivise priorità e piano di lavoro", Ministro della Salute (Rome) 28 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6495](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6495)

<sup>500</sup> PNRR, approvate le graduatorie per il finanziamento di 334 progetti di ricerca biomedica per oltre 312 milioni di euro, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 5 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6536](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=6536)

On 14 April 2024, the Ministry of Health launched a joint initiative with the National Transplant Centre to spread awareness about the organ and tissue donation process.<sup>501</sup> This initiative will provide verified and accurate information on the subject to citizens, to help them make informed choices when offered the option of consenting to organ and tissue donation during the renewal process of identification documents. The initiative hopes to increase the amount of organ and tissue donations in the country.

On 17 April 2024, G7 foreign ministers met in Italy and commencing the publication of a communiqué that summarized the priorities for Italy's G7 presidency.<sup>502</sup> In the communiqué, G7 ministers expressed their support for improving Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and global health through providing sustainable financing to less developed countries.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Italy has addressed access to effective medications, diagnostics and other treatments nationally through the healthcare cooperation agreement with Lombardy and funding via the 2024 budget law. Italy has committed to facilitate the equitable access of medical countermeasures in Ivory Coast which is a LMIC.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lillian Toe*

#### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 15 December 2023, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Deputy Resident Representative in Ghana Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov made a statement emphasizing Japan's crucial role in expanding "access to new health technologies" in Ghana.<sup>503</sup> This was after the visit of Japanese Ambassador Takeshi Akahori to a mobile laboratory at the Kotoka International Airport, one of several healthcare initiatives implemented with Japan's support and funding in Ghana. Japan's partnership with the UNDP has helped to promote pandemic preparedness and affordable access to medical services in the region.

On 20 December 2023, the Central Social Insurance Medical Council finalized the outlines to reforms of the national drug pricing system. It was announced that the reforms will take effect in 2024, with the goal of incentivizing "the early introduction of new drugs to Japan" and making drug prices more affordable.<sup>504</sup>

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<sup>501</sup> Giornata nazionale per la donazione, il Ministro Schillaci: "La donazione è una scelta di vita", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 14 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 April 2024.

<sup>502</sup> Addressing Global Challenges, Fostering Partnerships, G7 Italia 2024 (Capri) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/G7-Capri-Communique-ADDRESSING-GLOBAL-CHALLENGES.pdf>

<sup>503</sup> Leveraging the Japan-UNDP partnership to achieve universal health coverage, United Nations Development Programme (Accra) 15 December 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2024. <https://www.undp.org/ghana/news/leveraging-japan-undp-partnership-achieve-universal-health-coverage>

<sup>504</sup> Joint Statement on FY2024 NHI Drug Pricing System Reform Framework and FY2024 Cost-Effectiveness Analysis System Reform Framework, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (Tokyo) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.phrma-jp.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/20231220\\_joint\\_statement\\_e.pdf](https://www.phrma-jp.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/20231220_joint_statement_e.pdf)



On 6 January 2024, the Government of Japan approved the provision of USD10 million to support infectious disease response and preparedness in Ukraine and neighbouring states, including Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Moldova.<sup>505</sup> The funds were issued to provide essential medical resources including medical devices and medication to displaced people in these countries, with distribution managed by the World Health Organization (WHO). This promoted healthcare access for vulnerable displaced people in the region.

On 17 January 2024, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement with the WHO to provide JPY1 billion to strengthen infectious disease preparedness and response in Afghanistan.<sup>506</sup> The funds were issued to provide essential medical resources including diagnostic equipment, medical instruments and medicines to Afghan hospitals along with technical support.

On 20 February 2024, JICA signed agreements to provide JPY232 billion in official development assistance (ODA) loans to India.<sup>507</sup> Of these loans, JPY10 billion was allocated for the establishment of a new Medical College Hospital in northeast India. This helped promote affordable and quality healthcare access in the region.

On 27 February 2024, the Government of Japan approved the provision of an Emergency Grant Aid totalling USD32 million for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This included USD10 million allocated to the WHO to improve the healthcare situation in Gaza.<sup>508</sup> This humanitarian effort demonstrates Japan's commitment to facilitating healthcare access in vulnerable regions.

On 6 March 2024, the Government of Japan signed an agreement with the United Nations Population Fund to provide JPY1.108 billion to Timor-Leste.<sup>509</sup> This grant will be used to improve the environment for maternal childbirth and perinatal care in Timor-Leste, with a focus on supporting emergency obstetric and newborn care in the country.

On 8 March 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced USD37 million in humanitarian assistance for those in Myanmar and Thailand who are affected by the coup in Myanmar.<sup>510</sup> In part, funding will support medical services, medicine distribution, food and water sanitation infrastructure.

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<sup>505</sup> ASEF's support for displaced people from Ukraine through WHO (Phase 2) Assistance for COVID-19 response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 6 January 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e\\_000435.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000435.html)

<sup>506</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement for Afghanistan: Contributing to the strengthening of the infectious-disease response capacity of referral hospitals, in cooperation with the WHO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 January 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240116\\_31.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240116_31.html)

<sup>507</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with India: Contributing to the deepening of bilateral relations and mutual development between Japan and India by supporting India's achievement of the SDGs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240220\\_31.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240220_31.html)

<sup>508</sup> Emergency Grant Aid in response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite\\_000001\\_00174.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00174.html)

<sup>509</sup> Signing and Exchange of Notes concerning Grant Aid to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste "the Project for the Improvement of the Facilities for the Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care at the Community Health Centers", Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite\\_000001\\_00191.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00191.html)

<sup>510</sup> Additional humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar affected by the coup d'état, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 8 March 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000494.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000494.html)

On 11 March 2024, the Government of Japan signed an agreement with the WHO to provide USD8 million for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.<sup>511</sup> This grant will be used to support Gazans receiving medical care in Egypt by providing hospital equipment and training medical staff.

On 14 March 2024, JICA signed an ODA loan agreement with the Government of Cambodia for JPY21 million to develop regional hospitals.<sup>512</sup> The project aims to improve access to medical care, upgrade medical facilities and equipment and improve the health and well-being of residents in rural provinces.

On 2 April 2024, the Government of Japan reinstated its funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, providing USD35 million for the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.<sup>513</sup> Funding will be used to send supplies for women and infants in Gaza as well as to provide medical services for Palestinians in the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

On 16 April 2024, the Government of Japan approved the provision of JPY758 million to Bhutan for the construction of the Royal Center for Infectious Diseases.<sup>514</sup> The project aims to improve Bhutan's preparations and resistance to infectious diseases.

On 19 April 2024, Finance Minister Shun'ichi Suzuki announced that Japan will establish a training centre aimed at improving affordable healthcare in developing countries.<sup>515</sup> The training centre will utilise Japan's experience and expertise to improve healthcare infrastructure in participating countries.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Japan has done so by facilitating access to affordable and quality-assured medications, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures in LMICs and LDCs.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lillian Toe*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

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<sup>511</sup> WHO and Japan sign US\$ 8 million agreement to support patients from Gaza Strip in Egypt, World Health Organization (Cairo) 11 March 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-and-japan-sign-us-8-million-agreement-to-support-patients-from-gaza-strip-in-egypt.html>

<sup>512</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Cambodia: Contributing to improved access to advanced medical care for rural residents through the development of regional hospitals, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 14 March 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240314\\_10.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240314_10.html)

<sup>513</sup> Disbursement to UNRWA from the FY2023 Supplementary Budget, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 15 April 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite\\_000001\\_00283.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00283.html)

<sup>514</sup> Signing and exchange of letters regarding grant aid to the Kingdom of Bhutan "Royal Center for Infectious Diseases Construction Project" (additional donation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/pressit\\_000001\\_00613.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/pressit_000001_00613.html)

<sup>515</sup> 武見大臣会見概要, 厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 19 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 April 2024. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/kaiken/daijin/0000194708\\_00689.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/kaiken/daijin/0000194708_00689.html)

On 3 December 2023, Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare Park Minsoo signed a Memorandum of Consideration to respond to the public health crisis alongside Japan and China.<sup>516</sup> This will strengthen cooperation regarding national and Asia-Pacific region healthcare particularly for public health crises like pandemics and other infectious diseases.

On 18 December 2023, South Korea Bioscience began distribution of Novavax's updated COVID-19 vaccine, targeting the XBB.1.5 variant.<sup>517</sup> This will provide the Korean population with more choices for vaccinations against COVID-19.

On 21 December 2023, the National Assembly confirmed KRW122,377 billion for the Ministry of Health and Welfare's 2024 budget.<sup>518</sup> The funding will be used to increase hospital bed availability for emergency patients, incorporate technology and state-of-the art medical equipment, establish a blood services centre and modernize medical facilities to strengthen existing infrastructure.

On 30 January 2024, Minister of Health and Welfare Cho Kyoo Hong attended the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Health Ministerial Meeting to discuss implementing policies for more resilient health systems.<sup>519</sup> The ministers discussed actions to take in the event of future shocks to the healthcare system, improving digital health services and healthcare personnel and ways to bridge gaps in medical personnel and equipment shortages in different regions.

On 2 February 2024, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced a healthcare policy reform package to strengthen essential healthcare programs and build the resilience of local communities.<sup>520</sup> The initiative aims to increase healthcare professionals by improving training and licensing, strengthen community healthcare networks by supporting local innovation and fostering public-private partnerships, implement safety nets to prevent medical malpractice and improve compensation and coverage for compensation services.

On 4 February 2024, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced the Second Comprehensive National Health Insurance Plan which outlines changes to ensure that individuals have access to healthcare services and medications in accordance with the financial limitations of Korea.<sup>521</sup> In part, the plan includes provisions to increase the affordability of healthcare for vulnerable groups by alleviating financial constraints, especially for life-threatening illnesses like cancer.

On 14 March 2024, the Ministry of Health and Welfare hosted the Medical Korea 2024 conference.<sup>522</sup> Global healthcare experts discussed issues plaguing the healthcare industry and ways forward by

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<sup>516</sup> Korea, Japan and China Pledge to Cooperate Closely on Healthcare, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 3 December 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2024.

<sup>517</sup> Novavax's updated COVID-19 vaccine to help provide wider array of choices, The Korea Times (Seoul) 25 December 2023. Access Date: 11 March 2024. [https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/12/113\\_365687.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/12/113_365687.html)

<sup>518</sup> KRW 122,377.9 Billion Confirmed for MOHW's 2024 Budget, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 4 January 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1479249&tag=&nPage=1](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1479249&tag=&nPage=1)

<sup>519</sup> OECD Health Ministers Put Their Heads Together for More Resilient Healthcare Systems, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 30 January 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1480090&tag=&nPage=2](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1480090&tag=&nPage=2)

<sup>520</sup> A Policy Package to Bring Essential Healthcare Back from the Brink of Collapse, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 2 February 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1480151&tag=&nPage=2](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1480151&tag=&nPage=2)

<sup>521</sup> Innovating NHI to ensure access to essential healthcare and consolidate our support for reform, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 28 February 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1480475&tag=&nPage=2](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1480475&tag=&nPage=2)

<sup>522</sup> Medical Korea 2024, Digital Healthcare Technologies for a New Horizon beyond Barriers, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 14 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1480652&tag=&nPage=2](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1480652&tag=&nPage=2)

building intergovernmental networks. A series of seminars introduced healthcare projects promoting medical training in the Middle East and strategies for expanding Korean healthcare projects overseas.

On 26 March 2024, the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the delegations from Turkmenistan, Paraguay and Mongolia agreed to expand cooperation in the healthcare sector during a bilateral meeting.<sup>523</sup> The parties agreed to cooperate in the areas of infectious disease prevention, the medical device industry and universal healthcare coverage.

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Korea has engaged in international agreements, provided access to COVID-19 vaccines nationally and planned to increase the affordability of treatments for life-threatening illnesses. However, Korea has not facilitated access to medical countermeasures with LMICs, LDCs or SIDS.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Emily Shin*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 12 January 2024, the Ministry of Health reinforced dengue control measures in over 300,000 homes in Acapulco, Guerrero, spatial misting covering 9,500 hectares.<sup>524</sup> The initiative aims to strengthen existing larval control mechanisms, detect the dengue virus in adult mosquitos and bolster the risk communication intervention to ensure people receive medical attention early on.

On 27 January 2024, the Ministry of Health received 2.8 million Abdala vaccines against COVID-19 from the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba to reinforce its National Winter Vaccination Campaign 2023-2024.<sup>525</sup> The initiative aims to facilitate access to safe and effective vaccines for populations at greater risk of contracting COVID-19.

On 9 February 2024, the National Center for the Prevention and Control of HIV and AIDS through the IMSS-Wellbeing and the Health Fund for Wellbeing committed to distributing free antiretroviral treatment for HIV nationwide by 2024.<sup>526</sup> The initiative aims to reduce the risk of exposure to and prevent the infection of HIV.

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<sup>523</sup> The ROK to Expand Healthcare Cooperation with Turkmenistan, Paraguay, and Mongolia, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 26 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024.

[https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list\\_no=1480790&tag=&nPage=2](https://www.mohw.go.kr/board.es?mid=a20401000000&bid=0032&act=view&list_no=1480790&tag=&nPage=2)

<sup>524</sup> Secretaría de Salud refuerza medidas de control del dengue en Acapulco, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 12 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/015-secretaria-de-salud-refuerza-medidas-de-control-del-dengue-en-acapulco?idiom=es>

<sup>525</sup> Llega a México primer embarque del año con 2.8 millones de vacunas Abdala contra COVID-19, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 27 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/031-llega-a-mexico-primer-embarque-del-ano-con-2-8-millones-de-vacunas-abdala-contra-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>526</sup> Censida e instituciones de salud garantizan tratamiento gratuito para VIH a nivel nacional, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 9 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/048-censida-e-instituciones-de-salud-garantizan-tratamiento-gratuito-para-vih-a-nivel-nacional?idiom=es>

On 15 February 2024, the Ministry of Health published a guideline which standardizes the assessment and issuance of the Electronic Disability Certificate for persons with disabilities.<sup>527</sup> The procedure, which is voluntary and free, incorporates a biopsychosocial model to determine the level of disability and facilitate the creation of health policies, resource allocation and national disability statistics.

On 22 February 2024, specialists from the National Hepatitis C Elimination Program in Mexico met to discuss actions to control and eliminate Hepatitis C.<sup>528</sup> Representatives reviewed current programs and initiatives for screening and treatment, highlighted existing gaps in the national approach and additional steps required to sustain efforts.

On 28 February 2024, the Administration of Public Charity Assets under the Ministry of Health delivered over 4,300 pieces of equipment to the states of Nayarit, Jalisco and Campeche.<sup>529</sup> The initiative delivered medical equipment to conduct mammography studies, ambulances and cochlear sound impact processors to facilitate day-to-day operations at the hospitals and support vulnerable populations.

On 28 February 2024, the Ministry of Health announced that the “Luis Guillermo Ibarra Ibarra” National Rehabilitation Institute is expanding ophthalmological care in Mexico.<sup>530</sup> In particular, cataract services and ophthalmological consultations will now be available to individuals over 60 and vulnerable individuals who may otherwise be unable to access these services due to geographical or socioeconomic barriers. Thus, this initiative increases access to affordable, quality-assured and effective ophthalmological services.

On 11 March 2024, authorities from the Ministry of Health of Mexico City, the National Institute of Cancerology and the National Autonomous University of Mexico participated in the 6th Meeting for Comprehensive Health to promote collective action for the prevention of diseases and the promotion of health.<sup>531</sup>

On 18 March 2024, the Ministry of Health donated 3,600 square centimeters of human skin to burn victims in the Dominican Republic.<sup>532</sup> The initiative involved coordinated action between the Tissue Bank of the State of Mexico, the embassy and Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic.

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<sup>527</sup> Secretaría de Salud da a conocer NOM-039-SSA-2023, en materia de certificación de la discapacidad, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 15 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/articulos/secretaria-de-salud-da-a-conocer-nom-039-ssa-2023-en-materia-de-certificacion-de-la-discapacidad?idiom=es>

<sup>528</sup> Tratamiento gratuito y grupos de atención prioritaria, acciones centrales contra hepatitis C, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 22 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/070-tratamiento-gratuito-y-grupos-de-atencion-prioritaria-acciones-centrales-contra-hepatitis-c?idiom=es>

<sup>529</sup> Personas en condiciones de vulnerabilidad reciben apoyos funcionales de la Beneficencia Pública, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 28 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/078-personas-en-condiciones-de-vulnerabilidad-reciben-apoyos-funcionales-de-la-beneficencia-publica?idiom=es>

<sup>530</sup> 082. Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación amplía áreas de atención oftalmológica, Secretaría de Salud (Mexico City) 28 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 April 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/082-instituto-nacional-de-rehabilitacion-amplia-areas-de-atencion-oftalmologica?idiom=es>

<sup>531</sup> Instituciones de salud y UNAM fomentan acciones colectivas de prevención y promoción de la salud, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 11 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/104-instituciones-de-salud-y-unam-fomentan-acciones-colectivas-de-prevencion-y-promocion-de-la-salud?idiom=es>

<sup>532</sup> 116. México dona piel humana a República Dominicana, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 18 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/116-mexico-dona-piel-humana-a-republica-dominicana?idiom=es>

On 25 March 2024, Mexico has joined the International Medical Device Regulators Forum as an affiliate member.<sup>533</sup> This membership aims to align Mexico's medical device regulations with global standards, facilitating smoother international trade and enhancing regulatory practices.

On 31 March 2024, the Ministry of Health began a vaccination campaign for children and adolescents to combat measles, polio and rubella.<sup>534</sup> The campaign begins on April 1 and ends on May 31, with an estimated nine million vaccines being administered. It aims to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases and another outbreak of measles, polio and rubella.

On 9 April 2024, health authorities from the Ministry of Health explained how Clínica es Nuestra is to be implemented across IMSS-Bienestar first-level care centers.<sup>535</sup> The program will be implemented in 10,668 locations in 23 states. The initiative aims to improve access to medication and medical equipment across the IMSS-Bienestar health centers.

On 9 April 2024, the Ministry of Health issued an epidemiological notice for all three levels of medical units to respond to detected cases of measles.<sup>536</sup> The notice aims to prevent an outbreak by strengthening monitoring and prevention strategies.

On 24 April 2024, Mexico's Ministry of Health urged parents and guardians nationwide to vaccinate their children during the 2024 Vaccination Coverage Recovery Campaign ending on May 31.<sup>537</sup> The campaign aims to achieve 90 per cent vaccination coverage through administering doses for polio, measles, mumps and rubella and emphasizes catching up on any missed vaccines in the 32 federal entities.

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. This is demonstrated through domestic measures to enhance access to safe, effective, quality-assured COVID-19 vaccines, free antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS and delivery of medical equipment used for diagnostics. However, Mexico has not engaged with LMICs, LDCs and SIDS to facilitate access to medical countermeasures.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alice Quan*

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<sup>533</sup> Mexico joins the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Acapulco) 25 March 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-joins-the-international-medical-device-regulators-forum-imdrf?idiom=enn>

<sup>534</sup> Secretaría de Salud inicia campaña de recuperación de cobertura de vacunación con énfasis en poliomielitis, sarampión y rubéola, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 31 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/132-secretaria-de-salud-inicia-campana-de-recuperacion-de-cobertura-de-vacunacion-con-efasis-en-poliomielitis-sarampion-y-rubeola?idiom=es>

<sup>535</sup> La Clínica es Nuestra brinda servicios de detección y prevención en el primer nivel de atención, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 9 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/141-la-clinica-es-nuestra-brinda-servicios-de-deteccion-y-prevencion-en-el-primer-nivel-de-atencion?idiom=es>

<sup>536</sup> Emite Secretaría de Salud nuevo aviso epidemiológico por sarampión, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 9 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 May 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/142-emite-secretaria-de-salud-nuevo-aviso-epidemiologico-por-sarampion?idiom=es>

<sup>537</sup> Sector Salud hace un llamado a madres, padres y personas cuidadoras a llevar a infantes a vacunar, Secretaría de Salud (Acapulco) 24 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/articulos/sector-salud-hace-un-llamado-a-madres-padres-y-personas-cuidadoras-a-llevar-a-infantes-a-vacunar-362850?idiom=es>

## Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 13 December 2024, Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova reaffirmed shared goals on healthcare, disease prevention and the development of medical technology at a meeting of the Russian-Chinese Commission on Humanitarian Cooperation.<sup>538</sup> Topics that were highlighted included cooperation in the prevention of illness, the exchange of knowledge in medical treatments, the training of medical staff and initiatives on the usage of nuclear treatments for cancer.

On 13 December 2024, Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov and the Nicaraguan special Presidential Representative Laureno Facundo Ortega Murillo discussed the prospects of trade and industrial cooperation with emphasis on joint initiatives in medical technology and pharmaceuticals.<sup>539</sup>

On 15 December 2024, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin affirmed interest in the modernization of and accessibility of healthcare and the prevention of vaccine shortages.<sup>540</sup>

On 25 January 2024, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin discussed the additional grant of RUB2 billion for the construction of a hospital in Kamchatka.<sup>541</sup> Mishustin discussed that the additional allocation of funds would be spent on diagnostic and treatment infrastructure within the hospital and hoped for the project to offer all essential services for patients.

On 3 February 2024, President Vladimir Putin and Health Minister Mikhail Murashko inaugurated new oncology centres in Tomsk, Ufa and Yakutsk.<sup>542</sup> These centres contain advanced medical equipment to support access to diagnostics and treatment for oncological diseases.

On 20 February 2024, at a media conference with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that talks between Russia and Venezuela included movements for the advancement of cooperation in medicine and pharmaceutical development.<sup>543</sup>

On 6 March 2024, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that talks with Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar highlighted an integration of Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic,

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<sup>538</sup> Tatyana Golikova chairs 24th meeting of the Russian-Chinese Commission on Humanitarian Cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 13 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

<http://government.ru/en/news/50402/>

<sup>539</sup> Russia and Nicaragua to develop trade ties and industrial cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 13 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <http://government.ru/en/news/50405/>

<sup>540</sup> Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 December 2023. Access Date: 28 April 2024.

<http://government.ru/en/news/50415/>

<sup>541</sup> Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

<http://government.ru/en/news/50700/>

<sup>542</sup> Владимир Путин и Михаил Мурашко открыли новые онкологические центры в регионах России, Министерства здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 3 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2024/02/03/20839-vladimir-putin-i-mihail-murashko-otkryli-novye-onkologicheskie-tsentry-v-regionah-rossii>

<sup>543</sup> Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Yvan Gil, Caracas, February 20, 2024, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

[https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1933495/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1933495/)

Scientific and Technological Cooperation with a shared focus on the strengthening of healthcare development.<sup>544</sup>

On 18 March 2024, Prime Minister Mishustin stated that the Russian government will provide RUB4.5 billion to obtain medications and continuing research for hepatitis C.<sup>545</sup> In addition, the government allocated RUB400 million to expand bone marrow transplantation for blood cancers.

On 26 March 2024, Minister Lavrov stated that talks with Namibian Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Peya Mushelenga noted the potential of the public health sector for cooperation.<sup>546</sup>

On 5 April 2024, Prime Minister Mishustin announced the allocation of RUB1.5 billion for the procurement of medical equipment for patient rehabilitation.<sup>547</sup> This includes increasing the efficiency of drug accessibility for patients, improving primary healthcare systems and renovating medical institutions such as hospital and clinics.

On 10 April 2024, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Evgeny Zagaynov and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia Heng Sarith co-chaired the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN-Russia Joint Cooperation Committee discussing further collaborative efforts in combating infectious diseases.<sup>548</sup>

On 11 April 2024, Prime Minister Mishustin announced that the government of Russia has adopted a plan to execute the Pharmaceutical Industry Strategy which aims to increase the production of medicine through government incentives and the development of an environment suitable for exports.<sup>549</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Domestically, Russia has taken action to diagnostics and treatments. Internationally, while Russia has reaffirmed its commitment and discussed prospects for collaboration with LMICs, it has not taken any strong actions to facilitate equitable access to medical countermeasures.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ethan Lui*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures,

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<sup>544</sup> Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint press conference following talks with Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Yusuf Tuggar, Moscow, March 6, 2024, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024.

[https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1937162/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1937162/)

<sup>545</sup> Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 March 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <http://government.ru/en/news/51125/>

<sup>546</sup> Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia Peya Mushelenga, Moscow, March 26, 2024, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. [https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1941041/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1941041/)

<sup>547</sup> Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 5 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <http://government.ru/en/news/51260/>

<sup>548</sup> On the 22nd ASEAN-Russia Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/rso/1943501/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/rso/1943501/)

<sup>549</sup> Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <http://government.ru/en/news/51314/>



especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 20 January 2024, Emir of the Eastern Province Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz and introduced health and development projects in Al-Ahsa Governorate.<sup>550</sup> Initiatives include “central laboratories and clinics [and] specialized healthcare and oncology centres” to improve access to quality and effective healthcare. This agreement comes as part of the Saudi vision for 2030.

On 20 January 2024, Governor of the Asir Region Turki bin Talal and Minister of Health Fahd bin Abdul Rahman Jalajel witnessed the signing ceremony of the health support agreements funded by Al-Shakreen Endowments.<sup>551</sup> Projects include specialized centres for oncology and dialysis and a prosthetics-specializing rehabilitation centre aimed at improving the quality of health services to patients in the Asir region and neighboring villages. This agreement is following Saudi Vision 2030 and contributes to the Health Sector Transformation Program goals.

On 15 February 2024, the Ministry of Health announced the launch of a “remote network of EEG services” at Seha Virtual Hospital.<sup>552</sup> The network will enable individuals with neurological conditions across the Kingdom to access modernized technology for diagnosis and treatment.

On 19 February 2024, the Ministry of Health organized the “Annual Forum of Infection Prevention and Control.”<sup>553</sup> The forum focused on strengthening Saudi Arabia’s international contribution to protective measures, infection control and healthcare preparedness.

On 27 February 2024, the second two-day Diabetic Foot Conference took place in Riyadh involving 45 panelists to provide insights on the most recent developments in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic foot. With approximately 1,800 registrations from diverse disciplines of specializations, the conference encourages diabetes research and offers a platform for professionals to exchange ideas.<sup>554</sup>

On 1 March 2024, Minister of Health accompanied by the Tunisian Minister of Health visited the National Center for the Promotion of Organ Transplantation in the Republic of Tunisia.<sup>555</sup> The purpose of the visit focused on discussing cooperation aspects and gaining primary knowledge of the technologies being utilized to enhance the healthcare sectors in both countries.

On 13 March 2024, Makkah Health Cluster, as a partner of the Saudi Ministry of Health Transformation Strategy, announced its completion of operational plans for all hospitals and affiliated

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<sup>550</sup> Eastern Province Emir Launches Health Projects to Achieve Comprehensive Healthcare, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 20 January 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-01-20-001.aspx>

<sup>551</sup> Asir Governor and Minister of Health Witness the Signing of Agreements to Support the Health Sector by Al-Shakreen Endowment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 20 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-01-20-002.aspx>

<sup>552</sup> MOH Launches Remote EEG Network at Seha Virtual Hospital, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 15 February 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-02-15-001.aspx>

<sup>553</sup> MOH Organizes the Annual Forum of Infection Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-02-19-001.aspx>

<sup>554</sup> MOH Discusses Recent Advances in Diabetic Foot with the Participation of Experts and Specialists, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 2 March 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024 <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-02-28-002.aspx>

<sup>555</sup> Minister of Health Visits Tunisia National Center for Promotion of Organ Transplantation, Ministry of Health (Saudi Arabia) 1 March 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024 <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-03-01-001.aspx>

healthcare centers under its jurisdiction for the Ramadan season.<sup>556</sup> In total, eight hospitals and 43 healthcare centers are sufficiently prepared for the implementation of the plans.

On 20 March 2024, member of the Presidential Leadership Council and governor of Marib Sultan bin Ali Al-Arada launched the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen.<sup>557</sup> The initiative aims to strengthen Yemen's healthcare system by upgrading diagnostic technology and bolstering critical and emergency care services.

On 4 April 2024, the Saudi Cabinet introduced a series of amendments to Resolution 156, the Healthy Marriages Program<sup>558</sup> for cases of medical incompatibility when genetic diseases are involved. The amendments aim to serve in the best interest of the public by preventing the rise of genetic diseases and improving treatment for affected populations.

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Saudi Arabia has taken domestic action towards the commitment through health and development projects in the Asir region and in the Eastern Province alongside a remote EEG network. Saudi Arabia has also taken part in international conferences and bilateral dialogues to discuss healthcare cooperation.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Fiona (Chenge) Wan*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 11 December 2023, South Africa hosted the three-day BRICS TB Research Network Innovation Summit, where health scientists from BRICS countries discussed scientific research on tuberculosis (TB) vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, drugs and health systems that strengthen the delivery of the aforementioned medical countermeasures.<sup>559</sup> Experts committed to strengthening collaborative efforts towards eliminating TB by sharing knowledge and experience and transferring technology among member states to address gaps in TB vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.<sup>560</sup>

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<sup>556</sup> 8 hospitals and 43 Healthcare Centers in Makkah Gear Up for Ramadan, Ministry of Health (Makkah) 13 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 March 2024

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-03-13-001.aspx>

<sup>557</sup> Saudi program boosts healthcare, education in Yemen, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2479811/saudi-arabia>

<sup>558</sup> MOH: To ensure the Well-being of Future Generations, the Saudi Cabinet Introduces Amendments to the "Healthy Marriage Progra, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 4 April 2025. Access Date: 9 May 2024.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2024-04-04-001.aspx>

<sup>559</sup> South Africa to host BRICS TB research Network Innovation Summit, Department of Health (Cape Town) 9 December 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/South-Africa-to-host-BRICS-TB-Research-Network-Innovative-Summit-09-December-2023.pdf>

<sup>560</sup> BRICS Health Experts commit to collaborate to end TB, Department of Health (Cape Town) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BRICS-Health-Experts-commit-to-collaborate-to-end-TB-14-December-2023.pdf>

On 5 February 2024, the Gauteng Department of Health began its HPV vaccination campaign in all special and primary schools in the region.<sup>561</sup> The initiative is a continuation of the previous vaccination campaign in fall of 2023 which aims to ensure girls are protected against cervical cancer.

On 12 December 2023, Minister of Health Mj Phaahla reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to the adoption of the National Health Insurance by during his speech at the Policy Dialogue on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in South Africa.<sup>562</sup> The essence of UHC is universal access to a strong and resilient people-centered health system with primary care as its foundation. This initiative aims to address inequitable access to medical services by establishing affordable or free care.

On 22 February 2024, Minister Phaahla along with South Africa's delegation met with the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to discuss the country's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.<sup>563</sup> Parties committed to identify new initiatives that contribute towards HIV prevention and treatment challenges and resolve barriers impacting the achievement of "95-95-95" targets.

On February 15, 2024, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa committed to signing the Health Insurance Bill into law.<sup>564</sup> The bill aims to provide nationwide universal health coverage, especially for historically marginalized groups as a part of South Africa's former two-tier system.

On 23 March 2024, the Ministry of Health held a TB Symposium to discuss the trajectory of technological advancements for the treatment and management of tuberculosis.<sup>565</sup> The meeting brought together health professionals, pharmaceutical representatives and the government.

South Africa has partially complied its commitment to facilitating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, as well as engaging with LMICS, LDCs and SIDS to facilitate equitable access to medical countermeasures. The adoption of the National Health Insurance Bill as well as the commitment of the President of signing it into law demonstrates South Africa's efforts to facilitate equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured health care system in South Africa. However, it does not indicate any engagement with LMICS, LDCs and SIDS.

South Africa has partially complied its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. South Africa's commitment to National Health Insurance as part of UHC demonstrates its efforts to facilitate access to the HPV vaccination for girls nationally. Internationally, South Africa has committed to cooperation with BRICS countries, many of whom are LMICs, to

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<sup>561</sup> Gauteng Health runs HPV vaccination first round campaign in all public primary and special schools, Government of South Africa (Cape Town) 18 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/gauteng-health-runs-hpv-vaccination-first-round-campaign-all-public-primary>

<sup>562</sup> Minister Joe Phaahla: Policy Dialogue On Universal Health Coverage in South Africa, Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 12 December 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.za/news/speeches/minister-joe-phaahla-policy-dialogue-universal-health-coverage-south-africa-12-dec>

<sup>563</sup> Governments meets PEPFAR, Stakeholders over SA's HIV response, Department of Health (Cape Town) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Government-meets-PEPFAR-Stakeholder-over-SAs-HIV-response-21-February-2024.pdf>

<sup>564</sup> South Africa's Ramaphosa will sign health insurance bill into law, Reuters (Cape Town) 15 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/south-africas-ramaphosa-says-he-will-sign-national-health-insurance-bill-2024-02-15>

<sup>565</sup> Department holds TB Symposium on new technological developments in the management and treatment of TB patients in SA, Department of Health (Cape Town) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Media-Advisory-Department-holds-TB-Symposium-on-new-technological-developments-in-the-management-and-treatment-of-TB-patients-in-SA.docx>

ensure improved vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for TB. However, South Africa has not taken strong action to engage with LMICS, LDCs and SIDS.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Arushi Chhikara*

### **Türkiye: +1**

Türkiye has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 11 January 2024, the Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca reaffirmed his commitment to continuing to support the collapsed health system in Gaza.<sup>566</sup> He also confirmed that 85 patients had been brought from Gaza to Türkiye as part of the seventh evacuation, to receive medical treatment.

On 18 January 2024, Minister of Health and Egypt's Minister of Health Khaled Abdel Ghaffar held a meeting to discuss facilitating the shipment of medication and medical devices, orthotics and prosthesis for people in Gaza.<sup>567</sup>

On 19 January 2024, representatives of the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency and International Health Services Inc. held a meeting with representatives from the Health Ministry of Kuwait and Investment Fund of Kuwait to discuss international initiatives facilitating medical devices and supplies and medication.<sup>568</sup>

On 5 February 2024, the Ministry of Health led the mobilization of healthcare workers and resources across Türkiye to support the provinces affected by earthquakes.<sup>569</sup> As a part of the initiative, warehouses in the region were established to supply medical supplies, devices and medications. The Ministry of Health also began an emergency vaccination campaign, providing tetanus, mumps, measles, rubella, rabies, Hepatitis-B and infant/child vaccines.

On 9 February 2024 Minister of Health shared the newly drafted article on improvements in the healthcare field.<sup>570</sup> The article contains regulations on drug and medical device research and developments to licensing and facilitation of drugs.

On 14 March 2024, President Erdoğan pledged to continue developing the infrastructure and public in local government focusing on increasing the number of hospitals and health facilities to bring a

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<sup>566</sup> Sağlık Sistemi Çöken Gazze İçin Gayretimiz Devam Edecek, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) 11 January 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR-101721/saglik-sistemi-coken-gazze-icin-gayretimiz-devam-edecek.html>

<sup>567</sup> Health Journal of Foreign Affairs and EU, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://disab.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/47495/0/129--disabgm-bulten-subat-2024-enpdf.pdf>

<sup>568</sup> Health Journal of Foreign Affairs and EU, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://disab.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/47495/0/129--disabgm-bulten-subat-2024-enpdf.pdf>

<sup>569</sup> Türkiye'nin Sağlık Ordusu Deprem Bölgesi İçin Seferber Oldu, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) 5 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR-102173/turkiyenin-saglik-ordusu-deprem-bolgesi-icin-seferber-oldu.html>

<sup>570</sup> Sağlıkta Yeni Düzenlemeler İçeren Teklif Komisyondan Geçti, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) 9 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR-102277/saglikta-yeni-duzenlemeler-iceren-teklif-komisyondan-gecti.html>

hospital to every major city.<sup>571</sup> President Erdoğan also highlighted that healthcare workers are the future of the country with implementing more benefits for medical students to encourage accessible and quality care within the next four years.

On 27 March 2024, the Turkish Embassy in partnership with the Turkish aid agency donated medical and laboratory equipment to South Sudanese medical students.<sup>572</sup> The donation aims to strengthen the medical and education sector, thus enabling students to carry out practical work in the field.

On 18 April 2024, the Minister of Health and the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides participated in the EU-Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Health in Ankara.<sup>573</sup> The meeting discussed common interests and priorities in interregional threats to health, mental health challenges, and cancer prevention and medical treatment.

Türkiye has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. It has taken steps to facilitate medical supplies and products domestically and in Gaza, began a vaccination campaign amid natural disasters and improved upon existing regulations to ensure equitable and safe access to medical countermeasures. Türkiye has also engaged with LDCs through its aid for South Sudan.

Thus, Türkiye receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kynzee Sethi*

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

United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 5 February 2024, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP100 million in funding to support medical care for 3 million vulnerable individuals in Ethiopia.<sup>574</sup> Funding will enable access to “family planning support, medicines, and childhood vaccinations.”

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<sup>571</sup> Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan, 14 Mart Tıp Bayramı kapsamında Sağlık çalışanlarıyla iftar programında bir araya geldi, T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı (Ankara) 14 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR-102982/cumhurbaskani-erdogan-14-mart-tip-bayrami-kapsaminda-saglik-calisanlariyla-iftar-programinda-bir-araya-geldi.html>

<sup>572</sup> Türkiye donates medical equipment to South Sudanese students, Anadolu Ajansı (Ankara) 27 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/turkiye-donates-medical-equipment-to-south-sudanese-students/3176863>

<sup>573</sup> Commissioner Kyriakides in Türkiye to participate in the EU-Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Health, Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye (Ankara) 18 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/t%C3%BCrkiye/commissioner-kyriakides-t%C3%BCrkiye-participate-eu-t%C3%BCrkiye-high-level-dialogue-health\\_en?s=230](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/t%C3%BCrkiye/commissioner-kyriakides-t%C3%BCrkiye-participate-eu-t%C3%BCrkiye-high-level-dialogue-health_en?s=230)

<sup>574</sup> UK announces £100 million of new aid for over 3 million vulnerable people in Ethiopia as humanitarian crisis deepens, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-100-million-of-new-aid-for-over-three-million-vulnerable-people-in-ethiopia-as-humanitarian-crisis-deepens>

On 7 February 2024, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation issued a statement for the spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination programme.<sup>575</sup> The initiative targets at-risk populations, outlines vaccine products available based on age-group and includes future considerations for vaccination programmes.

On 14 February 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care announced GBP10 million for eight technological companies to develop and increase access to medical devices for cancer, Alzheimer's and stroke.<sup>576</sup> This includes a device by HistoSonics which aims to destroy liver cancer tumours with ultrasonic waves instead of the traditional, albeit-less safe, radiotherapy.

On 4 March 2024, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced GBP1.5 million in funding for the International Planned Parenthood Federation.<sup>577</sup> Funding will enable vulnerable girls and women in Ukraine to access “vital sexual and reproductive healthcare, including mobile clinics and access to safe abortion care.”

On 13 March 2024, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that 150 tonnes of aid from the UK will enter Gaza.<sup>578</sup> In addition, a full field hospital was expected to arrive in Gaza within the week to provide medical care including pharmaceuticals and maternity care to upwards of 100 patients daily.

On 13 March 2024, the UK Health Security Agency announced a collaboration with The Pirbright Institute involving new research to develop vaccines against henipaviruses.<sup>579</sup> The initiative aims to protect populations from the global health threat and accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to strengthen future epidemic preparedness.

On 18 March 2024, Minister for Development Andrew Mitchell announced at the UK-Africa Health Summit 2024 that the government will increase global health research funding, which informs the facilitation of malaria vaccines to 20 African countries.<sup>580</sup> The initiative aims to immunize over 6 million children in Africa by 2025. This emphasises the United Kingdom's promotion of equitable access to health in its engagement abroad, showcasing its commitment to international cooperation on the subject.

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<sup>575</sup> JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination in spring 2024 and considerations on future COVID-19 vaccination, 4 December 2023, Department of Health & Social Care (London) 7 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-spring-2024-and-future-vaccination-programmes-jcvi-advice-4-december-2023/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-in-spring-2024-and-considerations-on-future-covid-19-vaccination-4-december-2023>

<sup>576</sup> Funding for game-changing tech which could destroy cancers and predict disease, Department of Health and Social Care and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-game-changing-tech-which-could-destroy-cancers-and-predict-disease>

<sup>577</sup> UK supports most vulnerable women and girls in Ukraine, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative, and Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon (London) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-most-vulnerable-women-and-girls-in-ukraine>

<sup>578</sup> Major humanitarian push as 150 tonnes of UK aid enter Gaza, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 11 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-humanitarian-push-as-150-tonnes-of-uk-aid-enters-gaza>

<sup>579</sup> New research to develop vaccines against deadly henipaviruses, UK Health Security Agency (London) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-research-to-develop-vaccines-against-deadly-henipaviruses>.

<sup>580</sup> UK-Africa Health Summit 2024: Minister Andrew Mitchell's speech, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 18 March 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-africa-health-summit-2024-minister-andrew-mitchells-speech>

On 21 March 2024, the National Institute for Health and Care Research invested GBP17.9 million to support the Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre.<sup>581</sup> The investment reaffirms the UK's role as world leader in clinical research and advanced therapies.

On 25 March 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care launched plans to expand water fluoridation scheme to reach 1.6 million more residents in the northeast of England to tackle tooth decay.<sup>582</sup> The initiative aims to reduce tooth decay and improve overall dental health and equity.

On 28 March 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care announced plans to improve patient experience by streamlining processes within dental and pharmacy environments.<sup>583</sup> Under the new plan, dental therapists and hygienists and pharmacy technicians will be given greater power to administer and supply certain medications. The initiative aims to provide more accessible primary care services.

On 4 April 2024, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency approved combined antibiotic cefepime/enmetazobactam (Exblifep 2 g/0.5 g powder for concentrate for solution for infusion) to treat adults with urinary tract infections and pneumonia.<sup>584</sup>

On 5 April 2024, the government donated GBP2 million worth of medical equipment including oxygen concentrators, suction and volumetric pumps, patient monitors, heated humidifiers and ventilators to Ukraine.<sup>585</sup>

On 9 April 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care approved Fosdenopterin (Nulibry) to treat the genetic disease Molybdenum Cofactor Deficiency Type A in adult patients.<sup>586</sup>

On 11 April 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the opening of 160 more Community diagnostic centre sites across England for patients to receive checks, tests and scans.<sup>587</sup> The government rollout aims to reduce diagnostic testing backlogs in hospitals, alleviate the burden on the healthcare system and ensure patients receive timely care.

United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, as well as engaging with LMICS, LDCs and SIDS to facilitate equitable access to

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<sup>581</sup> UK advanced therapies to get £17.9 million boost, European Pharmaceutical Review (Kent) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/news/221329/uk-advanced-therapies-to-get-17-9-million-boost/>

<sup>582</sup> Plans to expand water fluoridation in north east, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-expand-water-fluoridation-in-north-east>

<sup>583</sup> New powers for dental and pharmacy staff to free up appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-for-dental-and-pharmacy-staff-to-free-up-appointments>

<sup>584</sup> Combined antibiotic approved to treat adult patients with severe infections of the urinary tract and hospital-acquired pneumonia, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/combined-antibiotic-approved-to-treat-adult-patients-with-severe-infections-of-the-urinary-tract-and-hospital-acquired-pneumonia>

<sup>585</sup> UK donates £2 million lifesaving healthcare package to Ukraine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-donates-2-million-lifesaving-healthcare-package-to-ukraine>

<sup>586</sup> Fosdenopterin approved to treat adult patients with molybdenum cofactor deficiency (MoCD) Type A, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fosdenopterin-approved-to-treat-adult-patients-with-molybdenum-cofactor-deficiency-mocd-type-a>

<sup>587</sup> Diagnostic checks rolled out to 160 sites under CDC programme, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/diagnostic-checks-rolled-out-to-160-sites-under-cdc-programme>

medical countermeasures. The UK has committed to expand research vaccination and drug programmes, develop new vaccines against infectious diseases and improve diagnostic testing services. Its commitment to prioritise global health as well as new funding for research in Africa and humanitarian aid for Ukraine showcases its commitment to international cooperation on health care.

United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. Domestically, the UK has launched a COVID-19 vaccination programme and research for henipaviruses to facilitate access to effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. Internationally, the UK has committed to funding to vaccinate children in Africa and provide medical countermeasures including medications and vaccines to Ethiopia which is a LDC and Ukraine and Palestine which are LMICs.

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

*Analyst: Arushi Chhikara*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 11 December 2023, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population launched a Global Health Security Program.<sup>588</sup> The program will enhance the Government of Nepal's ability to prevent and detect infectious diseases. As one of 50 planned programs around the world, this initiative will help detect infectious diseases early and support the response to them before becoming a widespread pandemic.

On 5 February 2024, the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) opened the CDC East Asia and Pacific regional office in Tokyo, Japan.<sup>589</sup> This new regional office is tasked to prevent, detect and respond to diseases in the East Asia and Pacific region. The office aims to increase collaboration in the region to detect and respond to health threats quickly, especially in countries with lower health capabilities.

On 26 February 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced USD36.9 million of funding for programs supporting behavioral health services.<sup>590</sup> This funding will address the overdose and mental health crises by providing more funding for resources for first responders and community outreach programs. The initiative will help promote mental health and support better coverage of critical health services, particularly for rural areas.

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<sup>588</sup> USAID and the Government of Nepal Launches Global Health Security Program, United States Agency for International Development (Washington) 11 December 2023. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-11-2023-usaid-and-government-nepal-launches-global-health-security-program>

<sup>589</sup> CDC Opens New East Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Japan, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Tokyo) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0202-cdc-japan-office.html>

<sup>590</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Funding to Increase Capacity for Behavioral Health Services, U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/26/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-funding-to-increase-capacity-for-behavioral-health-services.html>



On 29 February 2024, USAID alongside the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development committed to improve global health security.<sup>591</sup> Their initiative includes more funding and research to combat neglected tropical diseases, the Pandemic Fund and increased manufacturing of medical countermeasures. This aims to support developing countries with underfunded health sectors and increasing access for people to vaccines and treatments.

On 4 March 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services received counteroffers from drug companies during negotiations to lower prescription drug costs for Americans.<sup>592</sup> This initiative is part of the Inflation Reduction Act that is lowering health care costs already for low or modest income people. The policy aims to support people in rural areas too, allowing people to save on medication such as insulin, vaccines and other prescription drugs.

On 6 March 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services dedicated nearly USD50 million for opioid treatments and recovery services in rural communities.<sup>593</sup> Especially since accessing treatment is harder in rural communities, this initiative will increase access to substance use disorder treatment and support recovery services.

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On 22 March 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a grant of USD39.4 million to support mental health and substance abuse services across the country.<sup>596</sup> Of the grant funding, USD6 million will be used to connect community-based resources to individuals with mental

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<sup>591</sup> USAID and Germany's Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Convene Strategic Development Dialogue, United States Agency for International Development (Washington) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/feb-29-2024-usaid-and-germanys-ministry-economic-cooperation-and-development-convene-strategic-development-dialogue>

<sup>592</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Receives Counteroffers from Drug Companies as Part of Ongoing Negotiations to Lower Drug Prices, U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/04/biden-harris-administration-receives-counteroffers-from-drug-companies.html>

<sup>593</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Launch of Nearly \$50 Million Initiative to Support Opioid Treatment and Recovery Services in Rural Communities, U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/06/biden-harris-administration-announces-launch-nearly-50-million-initiative-support-opioid-treatment-recovery-services-rural-communities.html>

<sup>594</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Receives Counteroffers from Drug Companies as Part of Ongoing Negotiations to Lower Drug Prices, U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 13 March 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/04/biden-harris-administration-receives-counteroffers-from-drug-companies.html>

<sup>595</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Launch of Nearly \$50 Million Initiative to Support Opioid Treatment and Recovery Services in Rural Communities, U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/06/biden-harris-administration-announces-launch-nearly-50-million-initiative-support-opioid-treatment-recovery-services-rural-communities.html>

<sup>596</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$39.4 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants to Help Advance the President's Unity Agenda, Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/22/biden-harris-administration-announces-39-4-million-funding-opportunities-grants-help-advance-presidents-unity-agenda.html>

health and substance use disorders, USD6 million to integrating primary healthcare providers with behavioural health professionals, USD15.2 million towards outpatient treatment programs, USD5.2 million towards accessing mental health treatment through primary care avenues, USD4.6 million to preventing underage drinking through capacity-building and USD2.4 million towards enhancing mental health services and suicide prevention programs for at-risk college students.

On 26 March 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services announced 41 prescription medications under Medicare Part B will be lowered due to inflation rebates from the lower cost prescription drug law under the Biden-Harris Administration.<sup>597</sup> Based on individual insurance coverage, savings are between USD1 and USD3,575 per dose. The initiative aims to improve accessibility to prescription drugs and ensure the Medicare program's long-term sustainability.

On 28 March 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services announced additional actions to extend temporary coverage to people during Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance renewals.<sup>598</sup> This step ensures people are adequately covered to receive medication, treatment and other medical countermeasures.

On 2 April 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services released a white paper highlighting steps the government has taken to address drug shortages.<sup>599</sup> The Department also presented a series of solutions to enhance supply chain resiliency and quality control strategies, while partnering with other government agencies to prevent shortages.

On 4 April 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services finalized policies to increase access to care and protect enrollees with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D.<sup>600</sup> The rules aim to ensure people with Medicare receive essential treatment in a timely manner and have access to more affordable and equally effective drug options.

On 11 April 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a data modernization initiative.<sup>601</sup> This new initiative will simplify the data sharing process between US organizations and departments to quickly identify threats to both US and global health which allow for faster responses. These new improvements will allow authorities to see problematic trends such as new illnesses or diseases and quickly make decisions to resolve the issue.

On 16 April 2024, the White House released details of the new Global Health Security Strategy outlining health as a top priority for the US and committing to strengthen health partnerships with

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<sup>597</sup> HHS Announces Savings for 41 Prescription Drugs Thanks to Inflation Rebates from the Biden-Harris Administration's Lower Cost Prescription Drug Law, Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/26/hhs-announces-savings-41-prescription-drugs-thanks-inflation-rebates-from-biden-harris-administrations-lower-cost-prescription-drug-law.html>

<sup>598</sup> HHS Takes Additional Actions to Help People Stay Covered During Medicaid and CHIP Renewals, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 28 March 2024. Access date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/28/hhs-takes-additional-actions-to-help-people-stay-covered-during-medicaid-and-chip-renewals.html>

<sup>599</sup> HHS Releases White Paper Focused on Preventing Drug Shortages, Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/02/hhs-releases-white-paper-focused-preventing-drug-shortages.html>

<sup>600</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Rule Expanding Access to Care and Increasing Protections for People with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D, Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 4 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/04/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-rule-expanding-access-care-increasing-protections-people-medicare-advantage-medicare-part-d.html>

<sup>601</sup> CDC Data Modernization Efforts Accelerate Nation's Ability to Detect and Rapidly Respond to Health Threats, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 11 April 2024 Access Date: 28 April 2024 <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0411-CDC-data-modernization.html>

foreign countries.<sup>602</sup> Some initiatives include improving pandemic readiness to generally pushing for more development or innovation to improve health. By highlighting the importance of health, it can create new medical countermeasures to address pressing illnesses and diseases.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. This compliance was achieved as the country is pursuing initiatives to bring more affordable healthcare treatments for its own citizens. Furthermore, the US is funding global initiatives by providing vaccines and supporting health systems, specifically with the detection and response to disease outbreaks.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in LMICs, LDCs and SIDS. This compliance was achieved as the country is pursuing initiatives to bring more affordable healthcare treatments for its own citizens. Furthermore, the US is funding global initiatives by providing vaccines and supporting health systems, specifically with the detection and response to disease outbreaks.

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

*Analyst: Kevin Li*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

On 14 December 2023, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament agreed on the regulation of substances of human origin used in healthcare and to include human breast milk and intestinal microbiota in such categorization.<sup>603</sup> This will consolidate the existing legal regulations, improve the safety of human-derived products and promote better protection of donors and recipients.

On 23 January 2024, the Council of the EU agreed to the practice of a new regulation to reform the healthcare fee system, promote sustainability of the European regulatory network for a durable financial base and simplify the current legislation.<sup>604</sup> This will establish secure funding for the European Medicines Agency to support operations.

On 14 February 2024, the Council of the EU amended the medical device legislation to lengthen the transition period of in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, commence the roll-out of a new electronic database called EUDAMED and obligated manufacturers to notify the public of potential shortages

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<sup>602</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Releases Strategy to Strengthen Global Health Security, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2024 Access Date: 28 April 2024 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-%E2%81%A0harris-administration-releases-strategy-to-strengthen-global-health-security/>

<sup>603</sup> Blood, tissues and cells: Council and Parliament strike deal, Council of the EU (Brussels) 30 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/14/blood-tissues-and-cells-council-and-parliament-strike-deal/>

<sup>604</sup> European Medicines Agency: Council gives final green light to the overhaul of its fee system, Council of the EU (Brussels) 23 January 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/01/23/european-medicines-agency-council-gives-final-green-light-to-the-overhaul-of-its-fee-system/>

of certain medical devices.<sup>605</sup> This will promote transparency in healthcare information and work to eliminate medical device shortages.

On 26 February 2024, the Council of the EU adopted new rules to limit workplace exposure to lead, its inorganic compounds and diisocyanates.<sup>606</sup> This will reduce the effects of the toxic substances on sexual function and fertility, damage to the nervous system, asthma and dermal diseases.<sup>607</sup>

On 29 February 2024, the European Commission endorsed Croatia's preliminary assessment of a payment request of EUR162.5 million that covers the delivery of investments in healthcare.<sup>608</sup> Measures for the payment request include the purchase of diagnostic medical equipment to improve the accessibility, quality and safety of healthcare.

On 1 March 2024, the European Commission organized a series of Humanitarian Air Bridge flights to deliver aid amid Yemen's public health emergency.<sup>609</sup> The flights carried vaccines, therapeutics and medical equipment to provide immediate assistance and prevent infectious disease outbreaks in the future.

On 17 March 2024, the European Commission released a press statement outlining a new cooperation agreement between the EU and Egypt.<sup>610</sup> In it, Egyptian President El-Sisi noted the EU and Egypt's joint commitment to humanitarian assistance including medical equipment in Gaza. The EU will provide EUR275 million to support this initiative in 2024.

On 24 April 2024, the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority launched the Critical Medicines Alliance to prevent medicine shortages.<sup>611</sup> As a part of this initiative, the Alliance will aim to secure the supply and availability of medicines, contributing to a more resilient pharmaceutical industry.

On 24 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted the European Health Data Space and new rules on substances of human origin (SoHo).<sup>612</sup> The new regulations aim to provide safe and quality SoHo therapies and protective measures for patients and donors.

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<sup>605</sup> Medical devices: Council endorses new measures to help prevent shortages (Brussels) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/21/medical-devices-council-endorses-new-measures-to-help-prevent-shortages/>

<sup>606</sup> Protecting workers against lead and diisocyanates: Council signs off on new limit values, Council of the EU (Brussels) 26 February 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/26/protecting-workers-against-lead-and-diisocyanates-council-signs-off-on-new-limit-values/>

<sup>607</sup> Protecting workers against lead and diisocyanates: Council signs off on new limit values, Council of the EU (Brussels) 26 February 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/26/protecting-workers-against-lead-and-diisocyanates-council-signs-off-on-new-limit-values/>

<sup>608</sup> Commission endorses positive preliminary assessment of Croatia's fourth payment request for €162.5 million under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1226](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1226)

<sup>609</sup> In February, the EU has organised 13 Humanitarian Air Bridges to Yemen to fight health emergency, European Commission (Brussels) 1 March 2024. Access Date: 31 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1246](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1246)

<sup>610</sup> Press statement by President von der Leyen with Austrian Chancellor Nehammer, Belgian Prime Minister De Croo, Cypriot President Christodoulides, Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis, Italian Prime Minister Meloni and Egyptian President El-Sisi, European Commission (Cairo) 17 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_24\\_1521](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_1521)

<sup>611</sup> Commission launches the Critical Medicines Alliance to help prevent and address shortages of critical medicines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2229](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2229)

<sup>612</sup> New EU rules on substances of human origin, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. [https://health.ec.europa.eu/blood-tissues-cells-and-organs/overview/new-eu-rules-substances-human-origin\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/blood-tissues-cells-and-organs/overview/new-eu-rules-substances-human-origin_en)

On 25 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted a series of measures proposed by the European Commission to increase access to in vitro diagnostics (IVDs).<sup>613</sup> The measures include providing manufacturers more time to transition to new safety requirements on IVDs, informing national authorities of supply disruptions and improving transparency on medical equipment.

On 26 April 2024, the European Union allocated EUR68 million in humanitarian aid to scale up health interventions for Palestinians inside Gaza.<sup>614</sup>

The EU has fully complied with their commitment to facilitating safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical countermeasures. It has implemented new rules to promote the safety of workers from toxic substances, contemporized regulations surrounding biomaterials, reformed healthcare fee systems and modernized legislations surrounding electronic medical devices. The EU has also partnered with other countries including Cambodia to bolster their health programs and supply humanitarian aid to alleviate the burden on the health systems in Gaza.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Emily Shin*

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<sup>613</sup> Commission welcomes adoption by European Parliament of measures to improve the availability of in vitro diagnostics, European Commission (Brussels) 25 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2291](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2291)

<sup>614</sup> EU steps up humanitarian assistance for Palestinians, European Commission (Brussels) 26 April 2024. Access Date: 9 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2288](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2288)