

We support local healthcare organisations and institutions and provide them with the necessary means to improve their services. This saves many lives. Our quality healthcare programmes prevent and treat HIV infections, reduce maternal and infant deaths and help people cope with trauma through professional psychosocial support.

Health system strengthening

Results-based financing and performance-based financing are our guiding approaches to strengthening health systems. This means we link funding directly to performance: healthcare providers receive payments after verification of their outputs, in terms of agreed quantity, quality and client satisfaction indicators.

This transforms the governance of health systems. The strategy introduces checks and balances, motivates staff, and involves government authorities. Communities are also engaged, in both the governance of the health facility and in local health promotion.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Another important pillar of our work in health care is the empowerment of young women and men, regardless of gender, age, religion, and sexual orientation, to make lifesaving choices related to their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. We do this by promoting informed decision-making and providing services, education, contraceptives, and medicines.

Mental health and psychosocial support

Our mental health and psychosocial support programmes deal with unmet needs in areas that are affected by war and conflict. Cordaid addresses individual and collective trauma. Health workers and social workers provide diagnosis and treatment, while community outreach workers are trained and support groups are formed for follow-up support and reintegration.

Global health security

Health crises and epidemics occur frequently in fragile countries. Cordaid supports health systems by training staff to be prepared for outbreaks and sudden demands for personnel and supplies.

Health and climate change

Evidence of climate-sensitive diseases and epidemics, such as malnutrition, dengue and malaria, have special attention in our advocacy efforts.

Data-driven decisions

Our data-driven projects contribute to more transparency and accountability. Data analysis allows for constant monitoring of projects, flexibility and more cost-effective and strategic allocation of resources. This leads to better policies and improved availability, accessibility and quality of health services.

Do you believe health is a human right? Do you believe people should not be pushed into poverty for accessing health services? Do you believe in a world where everyone can live a healthy life, regardless of who they are and where they live? Then you believe in *Universal Health Coverage*.

Global Health, Global Access is Cordaid's lobby and advocacy programme to increase *Official Development Assistance* for health care.

Since 2017, the programme has been deploying powerful advocacy efforts to influence and increase the Dutch contribution to strengthening health systems in low-income countries. The programme is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Why advocate for a global approach to health?

Cordaid's advocacy efforts start from the premise that health is first and foremost a human right. It is a basic requirement for an active and dignified life.

Strong health systems, everywhere, have proven to be crucial for a functioning global society. That is why Cordaid is an advocate for a global approach to health. This is what we call *Universal Health Coverage*.

Watch this video to learn more about Universal Health Coverage:

Gender equity

Universal Health Coverage cannot be achieved without taking gender equity into account, every step of the way. This is central to the idea of *leaving no one behind*. We need to focus on the common good, human dignity and social justice.

The role of the Netherlands in global health

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it blatantly clear that threats to our health have a global impact. The development sector and the donor community need to focus on improving health systems in low-income countries. Investing in health care in these countries will contribute to improving the health situation across the globe.

The discussion about the role of high-income countries, like the Netherlands, in advancing international development is not new. In 2015, the international community committed to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The agreement includes the goals of *Good Health and Well-Being* and *Gender Equality*.

These *Sustainable Development Goals* call on governments and organisations to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” and to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” by 2030. This can be achieved through systematic investments in global health and by making health systems stronger.

Official Development Assistance

An important investment towards achieving global health is the government's allocated budget, called *Official Development Assistance*. In 1970, the United Nations agreed that high-income countries should put 0.7% of their Gross National Income towards this goal. The World Health Organisation later recommended that 14% of a country's *Official Development Assistance* should be allocated to global health.

More on Official Development Assistance in this video:

The Netherlands is regarded as a global health champion, for a large part thanks to its strong legacy in the field of *sexual and reproductive health and rights* and vaccines. Until 2010, the Netherlands had adhered to the 0.7% commitment, and in some years even spent more than 0.8%.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the Dutch government has gradually reduced its contribution to 0.55%, of which 10% is allocated to global health.

Global Health, Global Access is about increasing Official Development Assistance

The *Global Health, Global Access* programme stimulates and motivates the Dutch government to increase its contribution to international development, global health and health system strengthening. We do this by raising public awareness and through actions that influence policies.

Our core advocacy messages are:

- The Dutch government should restore its 0,7% GNI commitment to *Official Development Assistance* and a 0,1% GNI commitment to global health.

- We need to strengthen health systems in low-income countries and focus on *sexual and reproductive health and rights* to respond to the needs of millions of people and reach the most vulnerable and marginalised.
- Prioritise gender equity (in all its diversity) in the results of global health to ensure no one will be left behind.

Our partners

As one of the major funders in global health, the foundation has awarded the project for the first time in 2017. Then in 2019, it supported the project for the second phase.

Making the Netherlands a champion of development aid again

The Netherlands has always been a champion in development aid. The country provided at least 0.7% of its gross national income to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Sadly, the trend changed in the past few years. The Dutch contribution to development aid is shrinking at an alarming rate. This has serious consequences for people who need it the most.

As one of the leading Dutch organisations working for global health, Cordaid feels the importance of acting on this worrying trend and engaging Dutch policymakers and politicians active in the global health conversation.

The Bill & Melinda Gates foundation continuously stresses the importance of increasing development cooperation. The grant from the Gates Foundation enabled Cordaid to dedicate a full project on the matter. All efforts of the project aim to ensure that the Netherlands increases its ODA to 0.7% with 0.1% for improving healthcare in low-income countries.

COVID-19 emphasises the importance of global health

The importance of global health has become more visible since the COVID-19 pandemic. It has shown that no country is safe until every country is safe. The virus does not discriminate or regard borders. In a globalised world, infectious diseases that are not handled properly because of weak health systems can spring back at any time. The Netherlands should invest in global health for its own safety as well.

Secondly, health has a direct impact on the social and economic stability of a country. If countries are equipped to handle situations like COVID-19, that will stop long-term negative consequences like economic depression, social instability and migration.

Thirdly, and most importantly, health is a human right. We can never achieve an equal and just world without attending to this basic human need. It is a moral obligation for the Netherlands, as a country that has committed to *Universal Health Coverage*.

Act now!

This is a crucial and transformative moment. Therefore, we urge the Netherlands even more to increase investment in development and in health systems in low-income countries.

Thanks to the grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cordaid can keep engaging Dutch politicians and governments in this crucial conversation about global health.

There was a time when millions would lose their lives to perfectly curable or preventable diseases like tuberculosis, polio, tetanus or even smallpox. Thanks to vaccines, these diseases should not pose a threat anymore.

As part of the awareness campaign Global Health, Global Access, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we advocate for actors and factors that have a strong positive contribution to global health. Vaccination is at the top of the list.

A brief timeline

Vaccination was discovered around the end of the 1700s. The first vaccine was against smallpox. A few decades later, hundreds of thousands of people worldwide started getting vaccinated. This liberated the population from deadly smallpox epidemics.

In 1974, the [World Health Organisation](#) started its mission to achieve universal vaccination against six preventable diseases by 1990. Vaccines require extremely delicate transportation and storing arrangements. It proved to be a challenging process.

Also, low- and middle-income countries lagged far behind in reaching that goal. In 2000, the Global Vaccines Alliance was established to expedite the mission.

Now there are vaccines available for more than 20 fatal diseases. Previous death sentences like tuberculosis and Ebola have now become preventable. Child mortality has decreased around the world. People can live longer and healthier lives.

How do vaccines work?

Prevention is better than cure. Vaccines prevent diseases through immunisation. Once injected, vaccines strengthen the body's natural immune system and reduce the damaging effects of an infection.

This preventive function has numerous positive effects on individuals and societies. It not only protects those who are vaccinated and immunised but also keeps those who are not vaccinated safe through herd immunity.

Vaccines reduce health complications and prevent infections from growing into cancer. By vaccinating the majority of the population, a disease can be eliminated from an area. It is even possible to eradicate a disease for good through vaccination, the way smallpox has been eradicated.

Vaccination and immunisation for a free society and world

Imagine if we would still be vulnerable to all the infectious diseases known since the beginning of history; we would still be living with cholera, diphtheria and tetanus. Still helpless against rabies and tuberculosis. Could we live and thrive as a species the way we do now? Would life be the same if vaccines against those diseases had not saved millions?

Since 2020, we have been experiencing a live demonstration of what it is like to be powerless against an infectious disease. From economy to mental health, from development to women's and children's rights, people have been facing unimaginable consequences because of the COVID-19 pandemic.