



GHPP Global Health
Protection Programme

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Managing health risks together

In recent years, international health crises have clearly shown how epidemics and pandemics can threaten populations throughout the world. They cause immense human suffering, can test health systems to their limits within a short period of time and have massive economic impacts. In a globalised world, pathogens do not stop at national borders, which is why we must step up health protection measures at international level.

The Global Health Protection Programme (GHPP) is an initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG). It is an important component of Germany's commitment to global health protection. The programme aims to support partner countries throughout the world in preventing and responding to epidemics and pandemics.

The GHPP, which was launched by the BMG in 2016 in answer to the lessons learned from the Ebola epidemic, has established itself as a model of excellence. It makes the expertise of specialist German public health institutions internationally available and implements projects worldwide together with institutions in the partner countries and

with international organisations. This, in turn, has created a partner network of public health institutions that extends beyond the measures receiving support.

GHPP's activities complement measures undertaken in the fields of development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and research promotion. The programme makes an important contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations – especially SDG 3: Good health and well-being – and to implementing the German Government's global health strategy, the national security strategy and the G7 goals.

The programme's thematic priority areas

The German Government's global health strategy sets the policy framework for the GHPP. Strengthening global health protection is a multifaceted challenge that requires action on various levels. GHPP's projects support the creation of resilient health systems and target ten thematic areas, which also reflect the particular competencies of the German institutions participating in the programme:



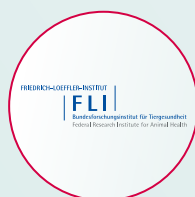
Further information on the programme can be found on the GHPP website www.ghpp.de/en/.

Participating technical institutions in Germany



Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices

The Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) is a higher federal authority with responsibility for guaranteeing drug and patient safety in Germany. Within the GHPP, the BfArM is substantially involved in projects that strengthen the medicines regulation authorities in the partner countries.



Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut

The Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) conducts research into the health and well-being of animals in the food chain and works to protect humans from zoonotic diseases. As part of the GHPP, it primarily carries out projects with its partners in collaboration with stakeholders in the veterinary and human medicine sectors in line with the One Health approach.



Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine

The Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM) is Germany's largest institution for tropical medicine and has a broad portfolio of research and training competence in the field of tropical diseases and emerging infectious diseases. Within the framework of the GHPP, the BNITM focuses primarily on projects that work to control infectious diseases.



Paul-Ehrlich-Institut

The Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI) examines and evaluates the benefits and risks of vaccines, biomedicines for human use, and immunological veterinary medicinal products – from their discovery and non-clinical and clinical development through to approval and medical application. As part of the GHPP, the PEI supports authorities and organisations in Africa in establishing and expanding medicinal product regulations.



German Central Committee against Tuberculosis

As a centre of competence for tuberculosis, the German Central Committee against Tuberculosis (DZK) is responsible for monitoring the spread of the disease at national and international level. Through its GHPP projects, the DZK supports cross-border tuberculosis monitoring and control measures.



Robert Koch Institute

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is Germany's central public health institution with a focus on infectious diseases. The aim of the RKI is to protect the population from disease and to improve its standard of health. In the GHPP, the RKI works with its partners to systematically strengthen public health systems and to provide support worldwide in managing disease outbreaks.



Research Center Borstel, Leibniz Lung Center

The Research Center Borstel, Leibniz Lung Center (FZB) conducts research into inflammatory lung diseases, in particular asthma, COPD and tuberculosis. Within the framework of the GHPP, the FZB supports partner countries in establishing next-generation sequencing methods for the rapid diagnosis of drug-resistant tuberculosis, enabling them to precisely target and effectively control the pathogens.

GHPP projects worldwide

Around 40 projects are currently realised in the second phase of the GHPP, which commenced in January 2023. They are being implemented in over 20 project countries in Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In these projects, the German institutes are working closely with national partners such as hospitals, laboratories, and public health care facilities. Partnerships have also been established with regional and international organisations and networks.

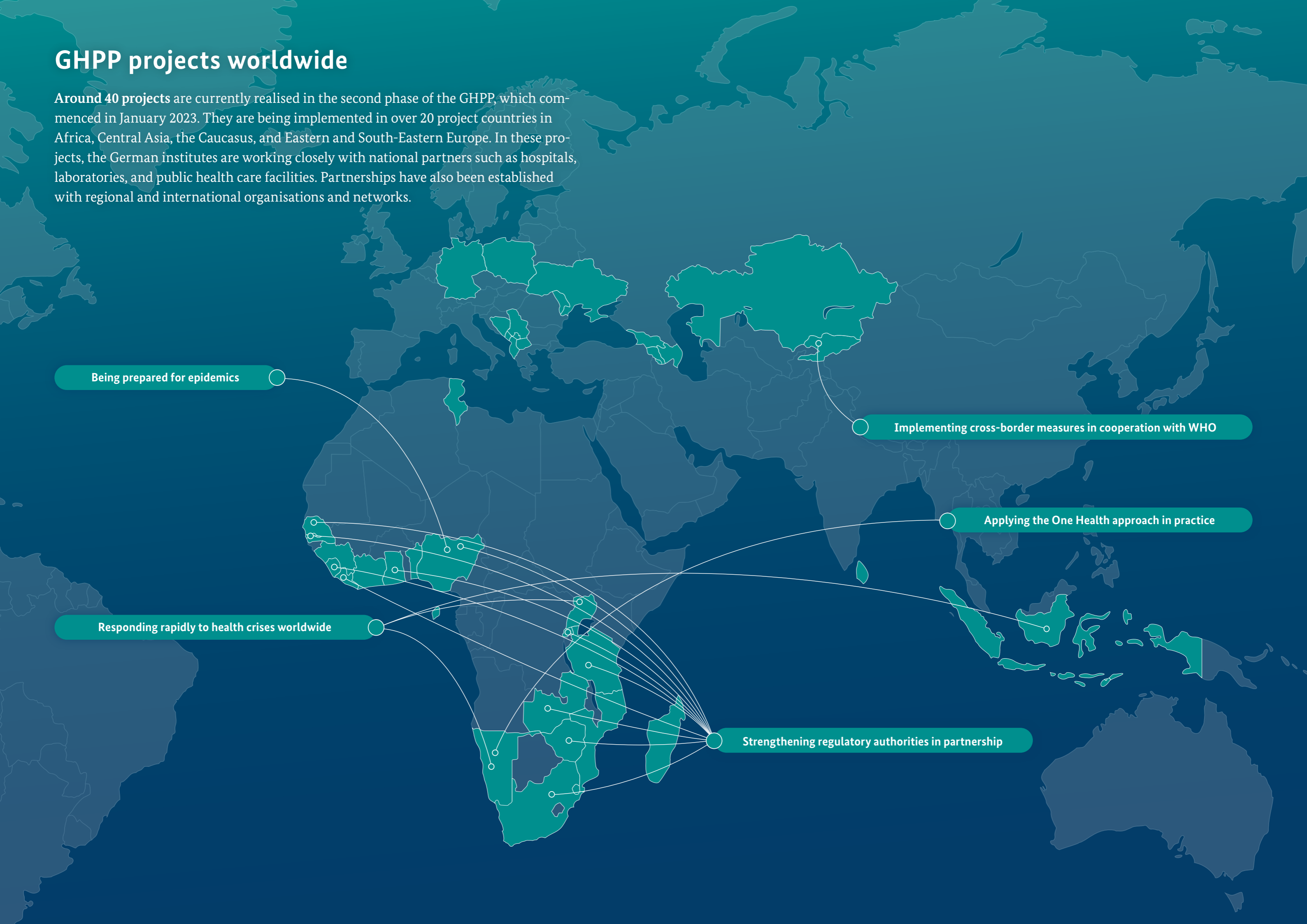
Being prepared for epidemics

Implementing cross-border measures in cooperation with WHO

Applying the One Health approach in practice

Responding rapidly to health crises worldwide

Strengthening regulatory authorities in partnership



Examples from the projects. GHPP is all about:

Being prepared for epidemics

The example of Nigeria shows how a systematic and integrated approach of several GHPP projects in a partner country can be achieved by utilising their individual expertise. In the **NiCaDe II** project in Nigeria, the RKI is, among other things, training hospital staff in infection prevention and control. Training is also being provided for staff at the Nigerian reference laboratory for antimicrobial resistance, as reliable lab results are indispensable for the effective implementation of infection control measures. The **AfroLabNet 2.0**, **MEVIN** and **Celesta** projects operated by the BNITM are focusing on establishing monitoring capacities for viral pathogens in Nigeria. Priority areas include expanding laboratories and their test capacities as well as improving the clinical management of infectious diseases. In the **COPE** project, the RKI supports networking between local and national actors in the health care sector which are working at the interface between human, animal, and environmental health.

Responding rapidly to health crises worldwide

Reacting quickly to disease outbreaks calls for measures on several levels. Various GHPP projects support partner countries in responding to crises. On the one hand, when emergencies occur, GHPP experts are seconded abroad to provide on-site assistance. To date, this has included assignments in connection with SARS-CoV-2 in various states, plague in Madagascar, yellow fever and Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, diphtheria in Bangladesh, Lassa fever in Nigeria, and Dengue in Tanzania. On the other hand, emergency response capacities are being built up in the partner countries. For example, the **EMT TTT** project operated by the RKI is working in partner countries Indonesia, Namibia, and Uganda to ensure that the national Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and crisis response systems function more effectively in acute emergencies. This is being achieved among other things through training measures and simulation exercises.

The World Health Organization (WHO) established the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which comprises over 270 organisations worldwide, in order to quickly identify and contain health hazards of international importance. As the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Outbreak Alert and Response, the RKI is accorded special importance in this context. As part of its remit, the **WHO CC GOARN II** project organises field epidemiology training in partner countries and international exchanges on the lessons learned from disease outbreaks and crises. In this way, the GHPP projects also contribute to other German initiatives, such as the German Epidemic Preparedness Team (SEEG). This was initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) jointly with the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). GHPP projects also complement the activities of the European Medical Corps (EMC) founded by the European Commission and of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Implementing cross-border measures in cooperation with WHO

Access to health care for all – the World Health Organization (WHO) is working worldwide to achieve this goal. Many GHPP projects work together with WHO, including the **SENSE** project operated by the RKI. The project is developing an AI-supported platform in order to improve the structures and working methods of the national vaccination commissions in WHO's European region. The idea behind the platform is to identify and provide access to studies on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. By utilising the project's technical expertise and WHO's work on supporting the establishment of national vaccination commissions, the goal is to promote cross-border cooperation between the vaccination commissions. In addition, WHO Cooperation Centres (WHO CCs) have been established at several institutions that are participating in the GHPP. They are part of an international network set up to support WHO. The GHPP forms the basis for three WHO CCs at the RKI: the **WHO CC GOARN II** project coordinates the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) while the **WHO AMR CC-Network** project is responsible for coordinating the WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment CC Network. The **Scale-Up HIVHEP** project works as part of the WHO CC for the hepatitis virus and HIV in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Western Balkans. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, the project is conducting studies to assess the disease burden of hepatitis B and C as well as HIV/Aids. It is also supporting WHO in the area of monitoring and disease control within the framework of the national programme.

Applying the One Health approach in practice

One Health is an integrated approach that looks at the health of people, animals, and the environment. In Namibia, for example, the One Health approach is implemented at a political level in the **IOH-Nam** project conducted by the **FLI** together with the **Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform**. Together with the national authorities, the project is planning to implement rabies control measures. The focus here is on both the veterinary (animals as carriers of the rabies virus) and human dimension (people as potential cases). In addition, the project contributes to the implementation of the Namibian antimicrobial resistance national action plan. Pilot studies are being conducted within the scope of the project, for example on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in farm and wild animals. The results will also help in expanding the laboratory capacities for AMR in Namibia's Central Veterinary Laboratory in line with the resistances that have been identified. Three German institutions – FLI, FZB, and RKI – are contributing their specific expertise in this area.

Strengthening regulatory authorities in partnership

Rapid access to high-quality medicines is crucial to enable effective treatment of patients and to counteract the development of antimicrobial resistance. The **PharmTrain2** and **LabTrain** projects managed by BfArM with GHPP support and the three projects operated by PEI, **BloodTrain Next Generation**, **VaccRelease**, and **VaccTrain 2.0**, are aiming to improve the regulatory capacities required in this regard at partner authorities in several African countries. This applies in particular to evaluating the quality, efficacy, and safety of vaccines, blood, blood products, and other medicines. In the West African partner countries Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for example, quality control laboratories are being set up, laboratory staff trained as well as national guidelines and strategies for laboratory services developed. Together with their partners, the projects are also working to harmonise regulatory structures across the various countries and are advising the African Union Development Agency on setting up the African Medicines Agency.



The projects presented here as examples represent a small selection of the approximately 40 projects funded under the GHPP. You can find a complete list at: www.ghpp.de/en/projects/.

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The Global Health Protection Programme (GHPP) of the German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) supports networking, exchanges, and collaboration between specialist German and international actors in the field of public health. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at national, regional, and international level, especially with regard to preparing for and controlling pandemics and epidemics, the GHPP contributes to global public health protection. The GHPP Secretariat is operated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health.