

A DEFINING MOMENT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH: ACCELERATING HEALTH EQUITY UNDER THE AU-EU PARTNERSHIP

Civil Society Recommendations ahead of the 7th AU-EU Summit

Strong health systems are indispensable to human development, economic and social progress, contributing directly to sustainable development and equitable economic growth. Yet, amid overlapping challenges, from persistent conflict and debt distress, to climate change, the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis and sudden disruptions in ODA from historical donors, the hard-fought health gains of many low to middle income countries (LMICs) are at risk. At present, 28 African governments are allocating a disproportionately high share of their budget on debt servicing rather than on health, while the impact of climate change alone could push an additional 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030.

On the 24-25 November 2025, the 7th European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) Summit will take place, in Luanda (Angola), amid these mounting challenges: global health investments are projected to decrease by as much as 40% this year, EU ODA dedicated to health reaching a five year low in 2023.



Europe and Africa **cannot afford inaction**. We are seeing overwhelmed healthcare systems, closing schools and communities are being pushed to the edge.

As such, we, a group of **European civil society organisations** working to advance global health, seize the opportunity of the upcoming 7th AU-EU Summit **to call on African and European leaders** to scale up long-term investment in global health, not just for emergencies, but for **prevention, equity, and resilience** (including climate-resilience), framing health a **strategic sector**.

This requires advancing vaccine access, allocating **financing** across the continuum of health (prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care), including for maternal health, mental well-being, non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and strengthening public health systems, especially through the Global Health Initiatives such as the Global Fund (GF), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and regional agencies such as the Africa Center for Disease Control (Africa CDC).

Our Recommendations



1. Put health at the core of the AU-EU Partnership's implementation phase:

- Adopt a Summit outcome with health clearly identified as a priority area for the EU-AU partnership, with a strong rights-based approach, and committing to integrate health indicators within the Joint Monitoring Framework, reporting annually on progress.



2. Deliver on the African Health Sovereignty agenda:

- Operationalise the 6th AU-EU Summit (2022)'s pledge by funding Africa CDC and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) through predictable, long-term investments. Significant investment in vaccines, medicines and health tools manufacturing is bearing fruit: MAV+ has so far mobilised over EUR 1.3 billion, involving 89 projects and 23 implementing partners.

- To meet the goal of reaching 60% domestic production of vaccines needed on the African continent by 2040, and to ensure long-term sustainability of those investments, accelerated efforts are needed to implement initiatives for locally manufactured health products. In addition to the continued support to the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), it is necessary to continue expanding the scope to include local manufacturing of diagnostics, therapeutics and health technologies, as well as sexual and reproductive health tools, building synergies with the Team Europe Initiative on SRHR.



3. Protect and increase Global Health Official Development Assistance:

- Reverse the current decline in global health investments and fully implement the EU's commitment to dedicate at least 20 % of EU ODA to human development, including health. European policymakers must ensure that funding for global health and human development is safeguarded in the current and future EU's long-term external action budget and national development cooperation plans beyond 2027.



4. Invest in resilient, inclusive and equitable health systems:

- Support inclusive community-based primary healthcare, health-worker capacity building, capacity sharing and support, as well as gender-responsive SRHR services, especially in fragile and climate-affected areas and along the continuum of prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.
- Prioritise universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) in healthcare facilities to prevent infections, reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, and improve birth outcomes. Integrate WASH into sexual and reproductive health and rights programs to ensure safe childbirth and maternal health.



5. Promote innovative and sustainable financing for health:

- Global health financing is at an inflection point, driven by shifting geopolitical dynamics, declining development assistance, and emerging opportunities for innovative financing. The Summit is an occasion to demonstrate that health is a critical investment for sustainable economic development, that this requires innovative solutions, such as strengthening tax systems and ensuring fair tax collection, debt restructuring and lowering the cost of capital to free up resources for health. The Summit further commits to strengthening health systems and greater efficiency in public financial management.



6. Make youth and civil society genuine partners:

- Ensure that civil society and local communities are fully engaged in all the phases of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health policies and programmes in partner countries, as well as at regional and global level, to ensure the reach to the populations most at risk and strengthen community-led resilience, including to climate shocks. This implies creating effective space for the meaningful participation of traditionally marginalised groups, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and people on the move.
- Provide adequate and flexible funding to community-based and-led programmes, especially for CSOs and communities that work with groups in the most marginalised situations and neglected needs.



As the AU and the EU meet in Luanda, leaders have the opportunity to reaffirm commitments and envision concrete action.

Investing jointly in resilient, equitable and inclusive health systems will define not only the success of this **partnership, but the **health and stability** of generations to come.**