



The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 6 May 2021

Prepared by
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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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4. Health: Strengthening Health Systems

“We will enhance our efforts to strengthen health systems in our countries and globally.”

G7 Leaders' Statement

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Since 1987, the G7 members have repeatedly emphasized the importance of international coordination of health systems and support for developing nations' health systems. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, these past actions are now being tested, as health systems around the world are pushed to capacity. The United Nations noted that the pandemic exacerbated already large differences in countries' abilities to handle health crises and that the UN Development Programme identified disparities in countries' ability to recover from the current crisis.⁹⁷⁷ Thus, the G7 members are faced with a looming health crisis in developing nations while also dealing with stressors on their own health systems.

Global health was first mentioned in a G7 statement at the 1987 Venice Summit. In this case, the heads of state of the G7 members affirmed that the heightening HIV/AIDS epidemic was “one of the biggest potential health problems in the world” and required international cooperation and coordination to prevent its further spread.⁹⁷⁸ The statement mentioned the need for countries to cooperate with and support the AIDS-related programs of the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as increased public health advocacy and research.⁹⁷⁹ This statement and its proposed actions set the stage for further discussion of health issues by the G7.

In 2000, members of the United Nations, including all G7 members, signed on to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals for international development by 2015.⁹⁸⁰ Of these goals, MDG 5 “To improve maternal health” and MDG 6 “To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases” became topics of focus for later meetings of the G7 health ministers.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, Japan released its initiative to fight infectious and parasitic diseases.⁹⁸¹ The Initiative focused on mobilizing health systems to break the cycle of poverty and poor health in the

⁹⁷⁷ Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, United Nations (New York) 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

⁹⁷⁸ 1987 Venice Summit Chairman's Statement on AIDS, G7 Research Group (Venice) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>

⁹⁷⁹ 1987 Venice Summit Chairman's Statement on AIDS, G7 Research Group (Venice) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>

⁹⁸⁰ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), World Health Organization (Geneva) September 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/

⁹⁸¹ Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>

developing world.⁹⁸² Of note in this summit, is the focus on the role of both local and global health systems in fighting disease. The statement notes that primary health care is the first line of defense against such diseases, and so investments in these systems in developing countries is necessary to achieve health goals.⁹⁸³

Resolutions at the 2000 Okinawa Summit and the 2001 Genoa Summit created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.⁹⁸⁴ This fund would help finance prevention, treatment and care programs for these diseases to help work towards the MDG 6. In the Genoa final communique, G8 members also noted the need to help countries in the provision of necessary drugs and treatment plans to fight this disease, especially in areas where people do not typically have access to such medical treatment.⁹⁸⁵

In 2001, the G7 members, Mexico and the WHO formed the Global Health Security Initiative in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and then subsequent anthrax attacks.⁹⁸⁶ The Initiative was formed to tackle health systems threats to global security. In 2009, the members met to discuss public health measures in response to the H1N1 pandemic.⁹⁸⁷ The meeting stressed the importance of international coordination and common protocols to mitigate the spread and health impacts of the pandemic. Additionally, the importance of aid to other countries with less robust health infrastructure was emphasized, as the H1N1 pandemic was framed as a truly global health emergency.⁹⁸⁸

While 2002-2012 was called the “golden decade” of global health aid, efforts to strengthen global health systems seemed to die off for a few years.⁹⁸⁹ The end of the MDGs and the signing of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015 may have reinvigorated the global health efforts. SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” added new motivation to increase primary health care, achieve universal health coverage and strengthen global health networks.⁹⁹⁰ At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, the health priorities focused on the Ebola epidemic, antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases.⁹⁹¹ Most recently, in 2019, the G7 Health Ministers’ Statement emphasized the importance of primary health coverage in achieving health-related sustainable development goals.⁹⁹² This meeting launched the G7 Primary Health Care Universal Knowledge Initiative, which would facilitate sharing of information across countries related to health systems.⁹⁹³ This sharing of knowledge across health systems could help facilitate better and more appropriate health care and prevent unnecessary treatment and expenses.

⁹⁸² Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>

⁹⁸³ Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>

⁹⁸⁴ 2001 Genoa Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Genova) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

⁹⁸⁵ 2001 Genoa Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Genova) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

⁹⁸⁶ Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306

⁹⁸⁷ Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306

⁹⁸⁸ Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306

⁹⁸⁹ Germany, the G7, and global health, the BMJ (San Francisco) 5 March 2015. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://globalhealth2035.org/sites/default/files/policy-briefs/germany-g7-and-global-health-bmj.pdf>

⁹⁹⁰ Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, United Nations (New York) 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

⁹⁹¹ Germany, the G7, and global health, the BMJ (San Francisco) 5 March 2015. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://globalhealth2035.org/sites/default/files/policy-briefs/germany-g7-and-global-health-bmj.pdf>

⁹⁹² G7 Health Ministers Declaration: For an Inclusive, Evidence-Based and Sustainable G7 Action in Global Health, G7 Research Group (Paris) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2019-health.html>

⁹⁹³ G7 Health Ministers Declaration: For an Inclusive, Evidence-Based and Sustainable G7 Action in Global Health, G7 Research Group (Paris) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2019-health.html>

On 16 March 2020, G7 leaders met virtually under the U.S. presidency to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic that was rapidly spreading. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “enhance our efforts to strengthen health systems in our countries and globally.”

“Enhance efforts” is understood as to heighten or intensify any action that strengthens health systems. This does not require members to create a new initiative, as they could increase their support of previous efforts. Examples of members enhancing their efforts include increasing aid allocated to a health-focused international organization, funding a vaccination program abroad, or increasing health coverage for its citizens.

The WHO has outlined six building blocks of a health system.⁹⁹⁴ These are service delivery, health workforce, information, medical products, vaccines and technologies, financing, and leadership/governance.⁹⁹⁵ Coming from these six building blocks, the WHO defines health system strengthening as “improving these six health system building blocks and managing their interactions in ways that achieve more equitable and sustained improvements across health services and health outcomes.”⁹⁹⁶ Additionally, more emphasis has been placed on universal health coverage in pursuit of SDG 3.8 “Achieve Universal Health Coverage.” Universal health coverage is defined as all people having access to needed health services, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.⁹⁹⁷

“Service delivery” entails providing “effective, safe, quality personal and non-personal health interventions” to those who need them, when and where they need them.⁹⁹⁸ A good workforce has sufficient numbers and mixes of staff which are well-distributed and competent in order to work in ways that are “responsive, fair and efficient.”⁹⁹⁹ A good information system entails proper “production, analysis, dissemination and use” of health information within the health system.¹⁰⁰⁰

Equitable access to medical products, vaccines and technologies is another key component of health systems, and these products must be of assured quality, safety and cost-effectiveness.¹⁰⁰¹

Healthcare financing ensures that adequate funds are raised so that people can use needed services and are protected from impoverishment from paying for these services.¹⁰⁰²

Leadership or governance in health systems includes proper policy frameworks as well as continued oversight, regulations, coalition-building and accountability.¹⁰⁰³

⁹⁹⁴ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

⁹⁹⁵ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

⁹⁹⁶ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

⁹⁹⁷ Universal Health Coverage, World Health Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 27 December 2020.

https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab_1

⁹⁹⁸ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

⁹⁹⁹ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

¹⁰⁰⁰ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

¹⁰⁰¹ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

¹⁰⁰² Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf

In order to receive full compliance, members must take actions or enhance previous actions that strengthen their own health systems as well as other global health systems. A member will receive partial compliance if they have taken action or enhanced previous actions to strengthen either their domestic health system or other global health systems, but not both. Non-compliance will be given if a member does not take any action to strengthen their domestic or global health systems. Any efforts should fit within the WHO definition of strengthening health systems in addition to universal health coverage.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically AND globally.
0	G7 member enhances efforts to strengthen health systems domestically OR globally.
+1	G7 member enhances efforts to strengthen health systems domestically AND globally.

*Compliance Director: Alby Johnston
Lead Analyst: Gurleen Mann*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu signed an Interim Order to ensure quick access to medical devices, such as diagnostic kits for testing COVID-19, by allowing the importation and sale of such devices with greater flexibility of approval.¹⁰⁰⁴

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised CAD50 million to help developing countries prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by improving infection prevention, sanitation and hygiene, emergency care, and surveillance systems.¹⁰⁰⁵ Of that sum, CAD8 million was an immediate provision to organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.¹⁰⁰⁶

On 5 April 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced the allocation of CAD159.5 million for international efforts against the pandemic, which includes the CAD50 million announced in March.¹⁰⁰⁷ CAD84.5 million of this funding went to international humanitarian organizations such as the WHO and UNICEF, CAD40 million supported vaccine development through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, CAD30 million funded country-specific requests for assistance responding to COVID-19, and CAD5 million went to reinforcing global health-security capacity building.¹⁰⁰⁸

¹⁰⁰³ Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf.

¹⁰⁰⁴ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

¹⁰⁰⁵ Canada's humanitarian assistance to help developing countries prepare and respond to COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Canada's humanitarian assistance to help developing countries prepare and respond to COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

¹⁰⁰⁷ Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

¹⁰⁰⁸ Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

On 12 May 2020, Minister Gould announced support for international vaccination through increased funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.¹⁰⁰⁹ This funding includes a promise of CAD600 million to Gavi over a multi-year replenishment period set to begin in June 2020 and ensures that routine vaccinations for other diseases can continue in low-income countries during the pandemic.¹⁰¹⁰

On 15 June 2020, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence and Minister Gould announced that the Canadian Armed Forces would provide airlift support on behalf of the WHO and World Food Programme, in response to a United Nations request.¹⁰¹¹ The airlift will transport medical and humanitarian supplies between hubs in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe to maintain supply chains in vulnerable countries.¹⁰¹²

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau joined other world leaders in an online pledging event to launch the Coronavirus Global Response.¹⁰¹³ The initiative aimed to collect USD8 billion in funding to help researchers across the world develop solutions to the pandemic in the areas of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines, and to strengthen health systems.¹⁰¹⁴

On 27 June 2020, Minister Gould announced CAD120 million to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which included CAD20 million going to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).¹⁰¹⁵

On 16 July 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a federal investment worth CAD19 billion through the Safe Restart Agreement to address a variety of healthcare system needs.¹⁰¹⁶ The funding targeted testing and contact tracing, personal protective equipment, mental health resources, and long-term care.¹⁰¹⁷

On 27 July 2020, Health Canada announced CAD4.28 billion in funding to expand testing and contact tracing capacities.¹⁰¹⁸ The announcement also promised CAD7.5 billion for personal protective equipment.¹⁰¹⁹

¹⁰⁰⁹ Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

¹⁰¹⁰ Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

¹⁰¹¹ Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canadas-ongoing-humanitarian-efforts-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

¹⁰¹² Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canadas-ongoing-humanitarian-efforts-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

¹⁰¹³ Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

¹⁰¹⁴ Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

¹⁰¹⁵ Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-announces-support-for-equitable-access-to-new-covid-19-medical-solutions.html>.

¹⁰¹⁶ More support for Canadians through the Safe Restart Agreement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/07/16/more-support-canadians-through-safe-restart-agreement>.

¹⁰¹⁷ More support for Canadians through the Safe Restart Agreement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/07/16/more-support-canadians-through-safe-restart-agreement>.

On 15 August 2020, Health Canada began a 60-day consultation to receive feedback on, and develop improvements for, the operation of supervised drug consumption sites which aim to prevent overdoses and refer users to health and social services.¹⁰²⁰

On 14 December 2020, Minister Gould announced CAD230 million in funding to help developing countries procure treatments and therapeutics for COVID-19.¹⁰²¹ Gould also announced an additional CAD255 million for the ACT-Accelerator to support the distribution of medical solutions to COVID-19 in developing countries through various channels such as the WHO, CEPI, and Gavi.¹⁰²² The contribution to Gavi included an investment in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.¹⁰²³

On 17 December 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced that Canada and twelve other countries had presented the Trade and Health Initiative to the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council for discussion.¹⁰²⁴ The Initiative called for greater cooperation and trade facilitation among WTO members in order to strengthen supply chains for medical supplies, medicines, and vaccines, such as through tariff reduction on medical goods and reducing export restrictions.¹⁰²⁵

On 29 January 2021, Minister Hajdu announced a bilateral agreement between the federal and Yukon governments to provide CAD3.12 million in funding so the territory can expand provision of virtual healthcare services to its residents.¹⁰²⁶

On 5 February 2021, Minister Hajdu announced a bilateral agreement with the provincial government of British Columbia which will provide CAD18 million in federal funding for the development and expansion of virtual healthcare accessibility.¹⁰²⁷

¹⁰¹⁸ The Government of Canada is investing to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/07/the-government-of-canada-is-investing-to-safely-restart-the-economy-while-protecting-the-health-of-canadians.html>.

¹⁰¹⁹ The Government of Canada is investing to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/07/the-government-of-canada-is-investing-to-safely-restart-the-economy-while-protecting-the-health-of-canadians.html>.

¹⁰²⁰ Government of Canada begins consultation to better ensure the continuity of supervised consumption sites and services in Canada, Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-begins-consultation-to-better-ensure-the-continuity-of-supervised-consumption-sites-and-services-in-canada.html>.

¹⁰²¹ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

¹⁰²² Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

¹⁰²³ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

¹⁰²⁴ Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

¹⁰²⁵ Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

¹⁰²⁶ Government of Canada Invests More Than \$3 Million to Virtual Health Care Services in Yukon, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-invests-more-than-3-million-to-virtual-health-care-services-in-yukon.html>.

On 7 April 2021, Minister Gould announced an investment of CAD200 million over seven years to Grand Challenges Canada, which is a partnership with Global Affairs Canada that creates health sector innovations for low- and middle-income countries.¹⁰²⁸

On 9 April 2021, Minister Hajdu and Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Francois-Philippe Champagne announced a CAD10 million investment to create five disease modelling networks which would identify gaps in disease prevention and provide policy responses to better address future public health threats.¹⁰²⁹

On 14 April 2021, Minister Hajdu announced the creation of a national Critical Drug Reserve to procure drugs that are used to treat critically-ill COVID-19 patients and which are currently at risk of shortage.¹⁰³⁰

On 16 April 2021, Minister Hajdu announced CAD46 million in support through a bilateral agreement between the federal and provincial government of Ontario to improve the delivery of virtual health services in the province of Ontario.¹⁰³¹

Canada has taken many actions and committed funds throughout the cycle, particularly in the first few months of the pandemic, to strengthen both its domestic health systems and the health infrastructure of foreign countries. Domestically, Canada has invested in contact tracing initiatives, mental health, long-term care, overdose reduction, and increased personal protective equipment. Globally, Canada contributed to the WHO, Gavi, COVAX, and ACT-Accelerator, in order to provide equitable test and vaccine access, as well as access to information.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 2 April 2020, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) approved the EUR1.2 billion COVID-19 – Health in Common Initiative which includes EUR150 million in donations and EUR1 billion in the form of loans to support healthcare systems in African countries.¹⁰³² This initiative aims to contribute to African countries' COVID-19 response plans, support French actors such as non-governmental organizations in their

¹⁰²⁷ Government of Canada Invests \$18 Million to Virtual Health Care Services in British Columbia, Health Canada (Ottawa) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-18-million-to-virtual-health-care-services-in-british-columbia.html>.

¹⁰²⁸ Canada renews partnership with Grand Challenges Canada to spur innovations for global health, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-renews-partnership-with-grand-challenges-canada-to-spur-innovations-for-global-health.html>.

¹⁰²⁹ Government of Canada invests in infectious disease modelling networks, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-infectious-disease-modelling-to-support-canadas-covid-19-response.html>.

¹⁰³⁰ Government of Canada establishes Critical Drug Reserve to bolster Canada's supply of drugs used to treat COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-establishes-critical-drug-reserve-to-bolster-canadas-supply-of-drugs-used-to-treat-covid-19.html>.

¹⁰³¹ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario, Health Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>.

¹⁰³² France launches, via AFD, the "Covid-19 – Health in Common" initiative to support African countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

response to COVID-19, support budgets for supporting healthcare systems, and maintain regional surveillance networks.¹⁰³³

On 16 April 2020, the Government of France brought together the leaders of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund, the World Bank, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Medicines Patent Pool, Unitaïd, and the Gavi Alliance, as well as the Chair of the Analysis, Research and Expert Committee Françoise Barré-Sinoussi for a conference.¹⁰³⁴ The goal was to strengthen international coordination and create a multilateral initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰³⁵

On 24 April 2020, the Government of France, along with global health stakeholders and its European and WHO partners, set in motion the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.¹⁰³⁶ The three objectives of this global cooperation platform include speeding up the production of vaccines, guaranteeing universal and equitable access to these vaccines, and bringing healthcare systems together against COVID-19 as well as other diseases.¹⁰³⁷

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission called for contributions to support the three aims of the ACT-Accelerator. France pledged to be among the leading contributors.¹⁰³⁸ This action will support the WHO, increase vaccine research, ensure just access to COVID-19 solutions, and generate support for healthcare countries in under-developed countries.¹⁰³⁹

On 12 May 2020, the AFD approved 16 projects to receive an amount of EUR60 million in grants for African countries per the COVID-19 – Health in Common Initiative.¹⁰⁴⁰ The goal is to strengthen health systems, support medical research, increase patient testing and treatment, and enable use of epidemiological surveillance in African countries.¹⁰⁴¹

On 25 May 2020, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe promised “massive investments” and “radical changes” in French hospitals and pledged to take on EUR10 billions of hospital debt.¹⁰⁴² The goal is to support healthcare workers and allow healthcare systems to accept new loans for investments.

On 13 June 2020, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands signed a contract with AstraZeneca to supply vaccines against coronavirus to European citizens. This will allow for 400 million doses of the vaccine.¹⁰⁴³

¹⁰³³ France launches, via AFD, the “Covid-19 – Health in Common” initiative to support African countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

¹⁰³⁴ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰³⁵ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰³⁶ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰³⁷ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰³⁸ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰³⁹ France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰⁴⁰ AFD's response to the Covid-19 crisis, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 14 May 2020. Access date: 24 February 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afds-response-covid-19-crisis>.

¹⁰⁴¹ AFD's response to the Covid-19 crisis, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 14 May 2020. Access date: 24 February 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afds-response-covid-19-crisis>.

¹⁰⁴² Covid-19: France's health workers to get 'significant' pay rises, France24 (Paris) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200525-france-s-health-workers-to-get-significant-pay-rises-after-coronavirus-pandemic>.

On 25 June 2020, the Government of France pledged EUR90 million to a WHO research centre located in Lyon, along with EUR50 million to the WHO.¹⁰⁴⁴ This contribution aims to support the WHO against coronavirus.

On 30 June 2020, the AFD and the Rwandan government signed an agreement allowing for a EUR40 million budget loan to help Rwanda fight the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁴⁵ This loan aims to increase the number of tests and laboratory equipment, to prevent infections via better infrastructure and personal protective equipment, and to improve treatment of sick patients.¹⁰⁴⁶

On 4 July 2020, the Ministry of the Interior announced in a press release that the Government of France will be mobilizing personnel and personal protective equipment to Guyana.¹⁰⁴⁷ The objective is to provide health support to expand and strengthen capacities of hospitals in Guyana.

On 12 August 2020, the Government of France created a EUR100 million call for projects that strengthen industrial independence.¹⁰⁴⁸ The Government of France is prioritizing projects in various sectors, including projects that serve to support the healthcare system. The goal is to decrease dependence on non-European suppliers and to strengthen production in France and in Europe, thus focusing on domestic and European production capacities to support healthcare systems and their responses to COVID-19.¹⁰⁴⁹

On 3 September 2020, the Government of France announced a EUR100 billion plan to relaunch the economy, in which EUR6 billion will be invested into the country's health-care system.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 23 September 2020, the AFD announced that it will provide EUR5.3 million to the Cuban Ministry of Public Health.¹⁰⁵¹ The goal of this funding is to help Cuba respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing resources such as ventilators, protective kits, and testing supplies.¹⁰⁵²

On 13 October 2020, France launched a flu vaccine campaign in which medical staff are told to reserve flu vaccines for priority patients, such as those over 65 years old, pregnant women, and people suffering from

¹⁰⁴³ Italy, Germany, France and the Netherlands sign contract with AstraZeneca for COVID vaccine, Reuters (Rome) 13 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-vaccines/italy-germany-france-and-netherlands-sign-contract-with-astrazeneca-for-covid-vaccine-idUKL8N2DQ0A1>.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Germany and France Promise New Financial Support to World Health Organization, NPR 25 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/25/883302474/germany-and-france-promise-new-financial-support-to-world-health-organization>.

¹⁰⁴⁵ AFD returns to Rwanda to join in the fight against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰⁴⁶ AFD returns to Rwanda to join in the fight against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰⁴⁷ Soutien sanitaire à la situation épidémique en Guyane, Ministère de L'Intérieur (Paris) 5 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidemieque-en-Guyane>.

¹⁰⁴⁸ Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Gouvernement (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>.

¹⁰⁴⁹ Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Gouvernement (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>.

¹⁰⁵⁰ France Reveals USD118 Billion Plan to Relaunch Economy, The Wall Street Journal (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/france-reveals-118-billion-plan-to-relaunch-economy-11599151784>.

¹⁰⁵¹ Cuba: Concrete actions against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19>.

¹⁰⁵² Cuba: Concrete actions against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19>.

respiratory diseases and other illnesses.¹⁰⁵³ This campaign is designed to address potential shortages of the flu vaccine, and to avoid confronting another epidemic peak.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 15 December 2020, the AFD announced that it will provide EUR2 million in emergency funding to the 12 Pacific Island countries and territories.¹⁰⁵⁵ This funding aims to establish strong public health surveillance and access to a range of services to help monitor diseases.¹⁰⁵⁶

On 18 February 2021, France committed to donating five per cent of its COVID-19 vaccine supplies to poorer countries via the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.¹⁰⁵⁷

France fully complied with its commitment to strengthening health systems domestically and globally. France invested in its own healthcare systems through taking on hospital debt and investing in its industrial independence, including in healthcare systems. It also invested in COVAX, and is a leading contributor to ACT-Accelerator, in addition to providing loans which aim to strengthen healthcare systems globally.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 19 March 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi via telephone to discuss strengthening their countries' partnership in aiding the global response to COVID-19.¹⁰⁵⁸ Both countries expressed their intent to “work closely together ... in the exchange of information” to advance research and development projects for treatments and vaccines against the virus.¹⁰⁵⁹

On 25 March 2020, Minister Maas met virtually with his G7 counterparts and issued a statement which outlined the need for solidarity and cooperation among G7 members.¹⁰⁶⁰ The ministers agreed that response to the pandemic needed to focus on “the immediate health-related consequences of the coronavirus and contain its spread through international cooperation in the development and provision of medicines and

¹⁰⁵³ France launches flu vaccine campaign amid COVID-19 crisis, Associated Press (Paris) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-epidemics-flu-france-cba5c0b500dc87947e4c3da3c4711df2>.

¹⁰⁵⁴ France launches flu vaccine campaign amid COVID-19 crisis, Associated Press (Paris) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-epidemics-flu-france-cba5c0b500dc87947e4c3da3c4711df2>.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Emergency support to Pacific Island countries to contain Covid-19 and emerging diseases, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Emergency support to Pacific Island countries to contain Covid-19 and emerging diseases, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

¹⁰⁵⁷ France to Donate 5% of Its Vaccine Doses to Poorer Countries, Bloomberg 18 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/france-to-donate-5-of-its-vaccine-doses-to-poorer-countries>.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Minister Maas and Minister Motegi Discuss COVID-19 Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-motegi/2321406>.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Minister Maas and Minister Motegi Discuss COVID-19 Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-motegi/2321406>.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Statement from Minister Maas Following G7 Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

vaccines, and also through our support for the countries in the world that are the least well equipped to respond to the virus,” as well as managing the economic consequences of the pandemic.¹⁰⁶¹

On 27 March 2020, the German Federal Council approved a two-fold legislative package that includes the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and the Civil Protection Act.¹⁰⁶² The COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act aims to ease the financial burdens of containing the virus on hospitals and other healthcare facilities through provision of EUR2.8 billion for 2020.¹⁰⁶³ In addition to the efforts of the relief act, the Civil Protection Act grants the German Ministry of Health powers to make decisions regarding protection of health in moments of national crises; including the administration of restrictions to international travel and building short-term medical facilities.¹⁰⁶⁴

As of April 2020, the Government of Germany has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO) members and global health partners in launching the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.¹⁰⁶⁵ The ACT-Accelerator seeks to support coordination of global health initiatives that will guarantee accelerated, equitable, and safe deployment of COVID-19 testing kits and vaccines.¹⁰⁶⁶ Since the launch, Germany has committed USD1.8 billion in funding to support the ACT-Accelerator in areas including COVID-19 testing, treatments, vaccine development, and enhancements to global health networks.¹⁰⁶⁷

As of 6 June 2020, Germany has partnered with Latin America and the Caribbean to aid in regional response to the pandemic.¹⁰⁶⁸ Ahead of a conference with Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers on 3 June 2020, Minister Maas reiterated the significance of Germany's role in providing financial and institutional support to Latin American and Caribbean healthcare initiatives amid the ongoing pandemic.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 5 September 2020, Germany, along with fellow European Union members, participated as regional coordinators in the 13th annual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), hosted by the Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss collaborations with ASEM partners in rectifying global health management disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁷⁰

¹⁰⁶¹ Statement from Minister Maas Following G7 Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

¹⁰⁶² Federal Council Approves COVID-19 Legislative Package, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

¹⁰⁶³ Federal Council Approves COVID-19 Legislative Package, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

¹⁰⁶⁴ Federal Council Approves "Civil Protections Act," Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

¹⁰⁶⁶ The ACT-Accelerator, WHO 24 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

¹⁰⁶⁷ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

¹⁰⁶⁸ Minister Maas Invites LAC Counterparts to Discuss Covid Responses, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-lateinamerik-karibik-covid-19/2346676>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ Minister Maas Invites LAC Counterparts to Discuss Covid Responses, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-lateinamerik-karibik-covid-19/2346676>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ Germany Participates in Declaration of the ASEM to the Coronavirus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/asem-coronavirus/2381540>.

On 6 October 2020, Germany, along with other G7 and EU members, ratified financial pledges made in support of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC); a financial aid mechanism that supports low- and middle-income economies in obtaining equitable access to vaccine resources.¹⁰⁷¹ Germany has fulfilled its commitment made at the 4 June 2020 Global Vaccine Summit, to provide EUR100 million towards the advancement of the COVAX AMC.¹⁰⁷²

On 12 November 2020, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in partnership with the Global Fund, signed an “additional contribution agreement,” committing EUR150 million to the fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism.¹⁰⁷³ Germany’s increased contribution furthers the efforts of the Response Mechanism in aiding low- and middle-income countries to alleviate impacts of COVID-19 on developing health systems.¹⁰⁷⁴

As of 5 January 2021, the Ministry of Health launched the “Alliance for Health Competence,” in partnership with Bielefeld University and additional stakeholders, to enhance the general health literacy of German citizens.¹⁰⁷⁵ This alliance will strengthen the population’s ability to find, understand and use health information.¹⁰⁷⁶ The central topics of the alliance are: digitalization, organizational health literacy, health literacy of vulnerable groups and communication of health professionals.¹⁰⁷⁷

As of February 2021, the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) updated their annual report on funding contributions of members, citing that Germany has contributed a total of USD4,506,001 in 2020.¹⁰⁷⁸ The CFE aids in the WHO’s rapid response to emergencies pertaining to global health, and reinforces the organization’s ability to adequately provide resources to contain and mitigate the impacts of infectious disease outbreak.¹⁰⁷⁹

On 12 March 2021, Minister Heiko Maas met with Foreign Affairs Ministers from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia; while German Minister of State Michael Roth met with his counterpart from Montenegro, to discuss Germany’s commitment to providing funding, medical resources, and additional support to countries of the Western Balkan Region.¹⁰⁸⁰ Since late 2020, Germany has been in close partnership with the WHO to provide healthcare supplies worth approximately EUR3.5 million that include

¹⁰⁷¹ Germany Pledges Funding Towards COVAX AMC, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

¹⁰⁷² Germany Pledges Funding Towards COVAX AMC, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

¹⁰⁷³ Germany Signs Additional Contribution Agreement, The Global Fund (Geneva) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-11-12-germany-signs-eur150-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund-s-covid-19-response/>.

¹⁰⁷⁴ Germany’s Contribution to Response Mechanism, The Global Fund (Geneva) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021 <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-11-12-germany-signs-eur150-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund-s-covid-19-response/>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

¹⁰⁷⁶ Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

¹⁰⁷⁷ Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Germany Contributes to CFE, CFE WHO 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/contingency-fund-for-emergencies>.

¹⁰⁷⁹ Germany Contributes to CFE, CFE WHO 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/contingency-fund-for-emergencies>.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Germany Partners with WHO to Provide COVID-19 Relief Packages, WHO – Europe (Geneva) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021 <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/germany/news/news/2021/01/who-and-germany-deliver-critical-medical-supplies-to-western-balkan-countries-to-strengthen-covid-19-response-and-save-lives>.

ventilators, pulse oximeters to improve health outcomes of patients in ICU facilities, and personal protective equipment for frontline workers in the Western Balkan region.¹⁰⁸¹

On 26 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health announced it would be extending its resources to citizens of the Brazilian state Manaus, providing critical resources such as ventilators and rapid test kits to hotspots within the Latin American region.¹⁰⁸² This aid is part of Germany's commitment to aid Latin American and Caribbean countries face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and "strengthen links" in order to further facilitate a global response to alleviating the financial strain of the countries most affected.¹⁰⁸³

Germany has taken measures to strengthen health systems both domestically and globally. Domestically, Germany has invested in health literacy, and easing financial burden on domestic health systems. Globally it has contributed significantly to ACT-Accelerator, Gavi, COVAX, and the WHO CFE, which ensures sustained contribution to global health systems improvement, as well as equitable access to tests, vaccines, and information.

Thus, Germany has received a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Theresa Jones

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening its healthcare system at home.

On 16 March 2020, the Italian government presented a EUR25 million package as a part of the "Cure Italy" Decree, intended to strengthen the health care system and support the economy.¹⁰⁸⁴ Of this funding EUR3.2 billion was directed to strengthening the National Health System and the Civil Protection Department, which involved hiring additional medical staff and purchasing medical protection equipment.¹⁰⁸⁵

On 25 April 2020, Italy joined the United Nations and the World Health Organization in the global effort to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus.¹⁰⁸⁶ The global coordination effort was formed to ensure the accelerated development and equitable allocation of coronavirus diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.¹⁰⁸⁷

¹⁰⁸¹ Germany Partners with WHO to Provide COVID-19 Relief Packages, WHO – Europe (Geneva) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021 <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/germany/news/news/2021/01/who-and-germany-deliver-critical-medical-supplies-to-western-balkan-countries-to-strengthen-covid-19-response-and-save-lives>.

¹⁰⁸² German top court allows approval of EU recovery fund, Reuters (Berlin) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/eurozone-economy-germany-court/update-2-german-top-court-allows-approval-of-eu-recovery-fund-idUSL8N2ME215>.

¹⁰⁸³ German top court allows approval of EU recovery fund, Reuters (Berlin) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/eurozone-economy-germany-court/update-2-german-top-court-allows-approval-of-eu-recovery-fund-idUSL8N2ME215>.

¹⁰⁸⁴ Protect health, support the economy, preserve employment levels and incomes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Protect-health-support-the-economy-preserve-employment-levels-and-incomes-00001/>.

¹⁰⁸⁵ Protect health, support the economy, preserve employment levels and incomes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Protect-health-support-the-economy-preserve-employment-levels-and-incomes-00001/>.

¹⁰⁸⁶ UN and WHO launch international alliance to accelerate vaccine against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4599.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Commitment and call to action: Global collaboration to accelerate new COVID-19 health technologies, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-04-2020-commitment-and-call-to-action-global-collaboration-to-accelerate-new-covid-19-health-technologies>.

On 13 May 2020, the Italian government allocated EUR3.25 billion to the National Health Service in their “relaunch decree.”¹⁰⁸⁸ The funding from the decree is to be used to upgrade the hospital network, increasing emergency room beds, and freeing up funds for new hires in the medical field and specialization grants.¹⁰⁸⁹

On 30 July 2020, Italy dispatched a team of seven units of doctors and nurses, as well as 500 thousand medical masks, to Albania to help support the country during their COVID-19 emergency.¹⁰⁹⁰ The team of medical professionals were to carry out consultancy and assistance activities and provide training on specific health aspects of diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19.¹⁰⁹¹

On 26 August 2020, the Italian government announced the “August Decree,” the third emergency funding measure to support the country during the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁰⁹² The Decree set aside an additional EUR25 billion in funding, parts of which were to go to the healthcare system to cut down waiting lists and pursue new research.¹⁰⁹³ An additional EUR1 billion was allocated to help provide schools with extra resources to reopen safely.¹⁰⁹⁴

On 14 September 2020, the Ministry of Health announced the “Match at Home” project, intended to allow people to register as bone marrow donors from their homes by distributing at-home typing kits.¹⁰⁹⁵ This new project was motivated by the 60 per cent decrease in the number of new bone marrow donors during the time of the pandemic.¹⁰⁹⁶

On 23 September 2020, the Italian Ministry of Health announced that it had distributed over 135 million surgical masks and over 600 thousand litres of sanitizing gel to schools to ensure a safe return to schools for children and teachers.¹⁰⁹⁷

On 28 October 2020, Italy formally joined the Coalition of Innovations for Disease Preparation and announced that they had made the first of two contributions of EUR5 million to support the coalition and

¹⁰⁸⁸ Relaunch decree, Speranza: “Three billion and 250 million for the NHS,” Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Relaunch decree, Speranza: “Three billion and 250 million for the NHS,” Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Coronavirus: a team of Italian doctors and nurses in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html.

¹⁰⁹¹ Coronavirus: a team of Italian doctors and nurses in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html.

¹⁰⁹² The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

¹⁰⁹³ The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

¹⁰⁹⁴ The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

¹⁰⁹⁵ “Match at Home” starts the project to become a bone marrow donor while staying at home, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055.

¹⁰⁹⁶ “Match at Home” starts the project to become a bone marrow donor while staying at home, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055.

¹⁰⁹⁷ Back to school, more than 135 million surgical masks and 600,000 liters of gel distributed, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 September 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5070.

the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.¹⁰⁹⁸ This investment will help support investments in COVID-19 vaccine candidates and different vaccine technologies.

On 10 December 2020, the Government of Italy released the “Ristori Decree,” which involved EUR18 billion to help the country cope with new shutdowns associated with the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁰⁹⁹ As a part of this decree, additional funds were set aside for the health systems to help boost human resources in the health system, provide additional funds for the purchase and distribution of medicine, and publish monitoring results regarding data on COVID-19.¹¹⁰⁰

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy and Finance will be working to extend dematerialization of medical prescriptions to include prescriptions not paid for by the National Health Services.¹¹⁰¹ Increased e-prescription ensures that vulnerable patients are able to access prescriptions and helps reduce patient flow in medical offices.¹¹⁰²

On 11 January 2021, the Italian Society of Pneumology and Federfarma launched a collaborative initiative to distribute 30,000 free pulse oximeters to families that have at least one member with pulmonary disease.¹¹⁰³ Increased monitoring of oxygen saturation in arterial blood will help prevent serious complications of COVID-19.¹¹⁰⁴

On 26 January 2021, Sandra Zampa, the Undersecretary of State for Health, established a new technical working table for mental health, which will help better organize services dedicated to the assistance and treatment of mental illnesses.¹¹⁰⁵ The working table will verify the quality and appropriateness of treatments, and identify critical issues in local services with proposals on methods to overcome them.¹¹⁰⁶

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the National Strategic Vaccine Plan for the prevention of COVID-19 cases.¹¹⁰⁷ The National Strategic Vaccine Plan contains the interim recommendations on

¹⁰⁹⁸ Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the Coalition of Innovations for Preparing for Epidemics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html.

¹⁰⁹⁹ Italy's 'Ristori' decrees: measures to help those in difficulty, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/decreti-ristori.html>.

¹¹⁰⁰ Italy's 'Ristori' decrees: measures to help those in difficulty, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/decreti-ristori.html>.

¹¹⁰¹ Drugs, dematerialization of prescriptions enhanced, Ministry of Health (Rome) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5281.

¹¹⁰² Drugs, dematerialization of prescriptions enhanced, Ministry of Health (Rome) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5281.

¹¹⁰³ Thirty thousand free pulse oximeters in pharmacies: the initiative of the Italian Society of Pneumology and Federfarma is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5261.

¹¹⁰⁴ Thirty thousand free pulse oximeters in pharmacies: the initiative of the Italian Society of Pneumology and Federfarma is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5261.

¹¹⁰⁵ Mental health, new technical working table set up, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5322.

¹¹⁰⁶ Mental health, new technical working table set up, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5322.

¹¹⁰⁷ Detail of the deed, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=79430&articolo=2>.

vaccine target groups, which updates the order of priority for vaccination.¹¹⁰⁸ This Plan was established on the principles of equity, protection, health, and the promotion of well-being in health care.¹¹⁰⁹

Italy has taken action to strengthen health systems domestically and globally. Through the series of funding measures over the past year, the country has made sure that its health system continues to function throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, Italy's participation in the COVAX initiative has helped to strengthen the global vaccination effort, putting the country in full compliance with their health commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Alexandra Johnston and Gurleen Mann

Japan +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the decision to establish a national headquarters for countermeasures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹¹⁰ Additionally, each prefectural governor is required to set up a response headquarters in each prefecture, so that the government can work together in a more integrated manner to monitor the spread of COVID-19.¹¹¹¹

On 27 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Government of Japan has created a new healthcare and medical strategy that is focused on promoting the development of medical research and vaccines, developing private-sector services aimed at preventative care and promoting health, and promoting the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative and the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative.¹¹¹²

On 27 March 2020, the Government of Japan secured a USD476 million contribution to the Global Fund.¹¹¹³ This contribution enables the delivery of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test kits, personal protective equipment, and strengthens disease surveillance systems.¹¹¹⁴

On 31 March 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry sent a newly developed rapid virus detector "GeneSoC" to 16 medical institutions throughout the country.¹¹¹⁵ The goal of deploying this detector create a screening system for COVID-19 and to confirm the effectiveness of GeneSoC.¹¹¹⁶

¹¹⁰⁸ Detail of the deed, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=79430&articolo=2>.

¹¹⁰⁹ Detail of the deed, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=79430&articolo=2>.

¹¹¹⁰ 23rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html.

¹¹¹¹ 23rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html.

¹¹¹² Headquarters for Healthcare Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00044.html.

¹¹¹³ Japan Secures \$476 million Contribution to the Global Fund, The Global Fund (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>.

¹¹¹⁴ Japan Secures \$476 million Contribution to the Global Fund, The Global Fund (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>.

¹¹¹⁵ Rapid Virus Detector "GeneSoC" Introduced to 16 Medical Institutions Nationwide, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_002.html.

¹¹¹⁶ Rapid Virus Detector "GeneSoC" Introduced to 16 Medical Institutions Nationwide, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_002.html.

On 1 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that 15 million surgical masks were distributed to medical institutions throughout the country, and that the Government of Japan will provide an additional 15 million masks by the next week.¹¹¹⁷

On 6 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Government of Japan will double PCR screening capacity to 20,000 each day, increase the number of hospital beds from 28,000 to 50,000, and secure 15,000 ventilators while further increasing production.¹¹¹⁸

On 7 April 2020, the Government of Japan provided an emergency grant of USD1 million to countries with COVID-19 patients interested in expanding Japan's clinical research on Avigan, an antiviral medication.¹¹¹⁹

On 16 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with companies involved in the increased production of personal protective equipment and other supplies and announced that the Government of Japan has been delivering personal protective equipment, including 45 million surgical masks, to hospitals throughout Japan.¹¹²⁰ The Prime Minister also announced that the Government of Japan has secured a budget of JPY250 billion to secure more personal protective equipment.¹¹²¹

On 8 May 2020, the Government of Japan committed USD100 million in funding to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.¹¹²² The donation will help the immunization of 300 million children over the course of five years and will secure global, equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.¹¹²³

On 21 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry supported seven research and development projects aimed at addressing the coronavirus.¹¹²⁴

On 4 June 2020, the Government of Japan attended the Global Vaccine Summit and pledged USD300 million to Gavi for 2021-2025 in order to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.¹¹²⁵

On 29 June 2020, the Government of Japan provided a USD4 million grant to Ethiopia to aid in Ethiopia's COVID-19 response.¹¹²⁶ The assistance will provide critical supplies necessary to prevent infections, supply

¹¹¹⁷ 25th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00001.html.

¹¹¹⁸ Japan to Raise PCR Test Capacity to 20,000 per Day: Abe, Nippon.com (Osaka) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020040600825/japan-to-raise-pcr-test-capacity-to-20-000-per-day-abe.html>.

¹¹¹⁹ Emergency grant aid to deliver the anti-viral medicine Avigan to countries with COVID-19 patients, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html.

¹¹²⁰ Second Meeting with Companies Contributing to the Increased Production of Personal Protective Equipment and Other Supplies (Tokyo) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00023.html.

¹¹²¹ Second Meeting with Companies Contributing to the Increased Production of Personal Protective Equipment and Other Supplies (Tokyo) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00023.html.

¹¹²² Japan pledges new support to Gavi, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

¹¹²³ Japan pledges new support to Gavi, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

¹¹²⁴ Measure for Supporting Organizations in Advancing Research and Development of Technologies for Addressing the Novel Coronavirus Disease and Other Infectious Diseases Starts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521_001.html.

¹¹²⁵ Japan, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/japan>.

¹¹²⁶ Japan gives UNICEF over USD 4 million for its COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, UNICEF (Addis Ababa) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/press-releases/japan-gives-unicef-over-usd-4-million-its-covid-19-response-ethiopia>.

water and sanitation services, promote hygiene, raising public awareness about the coronavirus pandemic, and train health care workers.¹¹²⁷

On 28 August 2020, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters to announce that the Government of Japan will be amending government ordinances to ease the stress placed on public health centers and medical institutions, and to make certain that hospital beds are used more efficiently.¹¹²⁸ The Government of Japan will also implement regular screening for those working at medical institutions in areas experiencing rapid spread of infections.¹¹²⁹

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced that the Government of Japan will be securing approximately 200,000 tests per day at medical institutions in order to maintain medical treatment structures.¹¹³⁰

On 29 September 2020, the Government of Japan contributed approximately USD1.6 billion to support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) COVID-19 emergency response to support healthcare workers during the pandemic.¹¹³¹ The donation will facilitate and increase delivery of personal protective equipment, train workers on infection prevention and disease control, and secure access to healthcare services.¹¹³²

On 8 October 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Toshimitsu Motegi announced that Japan pledges a contribution of USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to ensure that countries have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.¹¹³³

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced the implementation of the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan of up to JPY500 billion over the course of two years to boost economic activity in developing countries.¹¹³⁴

On 22 January 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced that the Government of Japan signed contracts to receive 314 million doses of vaccines and urged local governments to prepare for swift vaccine rollouts.¹¹³⁵

Japan fully complied with its commitment to strengthen health systems and did so domestically and globally. Japan invested in domestic health systems by instituting a national headquarters for COVID-19 countermeasures, by increasing hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment, as well as by

¹¹²⁷ Japan gives UNICEF over USD 4 million for its COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, UNICEF (Addis Ababa) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/press-releases/japan-gives-unicef-over-usd-4-million-its-covid-19-response-ethiopia>.

¹¹²⁸ 42nd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202008/_00016.html.

¹¹²⁹ 42nd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202008/_00016.html.

¹¹³⁰ 43rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202009/_00017.html.

¹¹³¹ Japan contributes nearly \$1.6 million to UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Egypt, UNICEF (Cairo) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/press-releases/japan-contributes-nearly-16-million-unicefs-covid-19-response-egypt>.

¹¹³² Japan contributes nearly \$1.6 million to UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Egypt, UNICEF (Cairo) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/press-releases/japan-contributes-nearly-16-million-unicefs-covid-19-response-egypt>.

¹¹³³ Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html.

¹¹³⁴ Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html.

¹¹³⁵ 53rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 22 January 2021. Access Date 24 February 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202101/_00019.html.

ensuring efficient use of tests and equipment. Globally, Japan contributed to the UNICEF COVID-19 emergency response and Gavi, to support healthcare workers and promote equitable vaccine access, respectively.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 17 March 2020, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock announced plans for emergency measures that would reduce legislative and administrative barriers for workers and volunteers in the National Health Service (NHS) in order to improve staffing flexibility in COVID-19 response.¹¹³⁶

On 19 March 2020, the UK Government promised GBP2.9 billion in funding for the country's health services, with GBP1.6 billion going to local authorities to provide health services during COVID-19, while GBP1.3 billion went to enhancing the NHS discharge process in order to increase hospital capacity.¹¹³⁷

On 21 March 2020, the UK Government announced an initiative to communicate safety guidelines to 1.5 million individuals with health conditions which make them vulnerable to COVID-19, and to set up a Local Support System to ensure the accommodation of vulnerable self-isolating populations.¹¹³⁸

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP210 million in funding for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI), to accelerate the development of globally accessible vaccines.¹¹³⁹

On 2 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care pledged GBP300 million to community pharmacies to ensure continued supply of medicine and medical services.¹¹⁴⁰

On 12 April 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced GBP200 million in support of developing countries' healthcare systems, to be distributed through UN agencies and the World Health Organization (WHO).¹¹⁴¹

On 23 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care began a campaign to recruit new healthcare staff and improve the training of existing adult social care providers.¹¹⁴²

¹¹³⁶ Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

¹¹³⁷ £2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

¹¹³⁸ Major new measures to protect people at highest risk from coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-new-measures-to-protect-people-at-highest-risk-from-coronavirus>.

¹¹³⁹ PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Department for International Development (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

¹¹⁴⁰ £300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

¹¹⁴¹ UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>.

On 29 April 2020, Secretary Trevelyan announced a pledge of GBP330 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance per year for the next five years, which will ensure immunisation programs continue in developing countries.¹¹⁴³

On 5 May 2020, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab condemned cyberattacks which target global health facilities and advised domestic healthcare and medical research staff on cybersecurity strategies.¹¹⁴⁴

On 20 May 2020, the Department for International Development pledged GBP20 million to support the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund by recruiting African health experts.¹¹⁴⁵

On 26 May 2020, the UK Government announced deals with over one hundred global and domestic suppliers of personal protective equipment to meet heightened demand due to the pandemic.¹¹⁴⁶

On 2 June 2020, Secretary Raab announced a GBP160 million aid package to address humanitarian needs in Yemen by ensuring the supply of medical services and healthcare workers.¹¹⁴⁷

On 30 June 2020, the Department for International Development promised at least GBP300 million in funding to support vulnerable Syrians during the pandemic by training health workers and providing medical supplies in Syria.¹¹⁴⁸

On 10 August 2020, the UK Government announced GBP172 million to expand the hiring of healthcare providers, with up to two thousand new nursing apprenticeships annually for four years.¹¹⁴⁹

On 18 August 2020, the UK Government began the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection, scheduled for introduction in spring of 2021, to combine existing health organizations under one leadership and streamline the response to COVID-19.¹¹⁵⁰

¹¹⁴² Adult social care recruitment care campaign launched to boost workforce, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adult-social-care-recruitment-care-campaign-launched-to-boost-workforce>.

¹¹⁴³ UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Department for International Development (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

¹¹⁴⁴ UK condemns cyber actors seeking to benefit from global coronavirus pandemic, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-condemns-cyber-actors-seeking-to-benefit-from-global-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹¹⁴⁵ UK to work with African Union to slow spread of coronavirus in Africa, Department for International Development (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>.

¹¹⁴⁶ Government significantly boosts UK PPE supply with more than 100 new deals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-significantly-boosts-uk-ppe-supply-with-more-than-100-new-deals>.

¹¹⁴⁷ Yemen: new UK aid will help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/yemen-new-uk-aid-will-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus>.

¹¹⁴⁸ UK pledges support for Syrians facing twin threat of conflict and coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-syrians-facing-twin-threat-of-conflict-and-coronavirus>.

¹¹⁴⁹ New funding to double nursing apprentices and help deliver 50,000 more nurses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-double-nursing-apprentices-and-help-deliver-50-000-more-nurses>.

¹¹⁵⁰ Government creates new National Institute for Health Protection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-creates-new-national-institute-for-health-protection>.

On 17 September 2020, the UK Government promised GBP546 million in funding for the country's Infection Control Fund, with the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19 over the winter by supporting staff self-isolation and wages.¹¹⁵¹

On 10 December 2020, the UK Government announced a GBP600 million investment plan for the maintenance and refurbishment of NHS facilities.¹¹⁵²

The United Kingdom has provided substantial sums to NGOs and foreign countries to strengthen health services and has also invested in its domestic healthcare sector. The UK has strengthened domestic health systems through investment in improved infrastructure in the NHS, increased staffing flexibility in the NHS, and the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection. Globally, it has contributed to Gavi and CEPI, and the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund, to ensure equitable vaccine and immunisation access, and recruit African health experts, respectively.

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

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

United States + 1

The United States has fully complied with its commitments to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which seeks to ensure advancement of free rapid COVID-19 testing, emergency sick-leave benefits, and supplemental food security resources for employed American citizens and veterans impacted by the virus.¹¹⁵³

On 27 March 2020, the United States Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act later enacted by President Trump, wherein approximately USD2 trillion in funding will be allocated to support efforts to economic recovery, public health systems, local governments, and citizens impacted throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.¹¹⁵⁴

In April 2020, the U.S. pledged financial aid towards the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.¹¹⁵⁵ The ACT-Accelerator seeks to support coordination of global health initiatives that will guarantee accelerated, equitable, and safe deployment of COVID-19 testing kits and vaccines.¹¹⁵⁶ Since the launch, the United States has committed USD2 billion in funding to support both the ACT-Accelerator and the COVID-19 Vaccine

¹¹⁵¹ More than £500 million for social care to reduce coronavirus transmission over winter, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-500-million-for-social-care-to-reduce-coronavirus-transmission-over-winter>.

¹¹⁵² Build back better: £600 million to upgrade and refurbish NHS hospitals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/build-back-better-600-million-to-upgrade-and-refurbish-nhs-hospitals>.

¹¹⁵³ FFCRA, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text>.

¹¹⁵⁴ CARES Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text>.

¹¹⁵⁵ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

¹¹⁵⁶ The ACT-Accelerator, WHO 24 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC), in areas of COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccine development, and enhancement to global health networks.¹¹⁵⁷

On 23 April 2020, U.S. Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which former President Donald Trump executively signed on 24 April 2020.¹¹⁵⁸ This act pledges approximately USD500 billion to advance health systems funding in areas such as COVID-19 testing resources, reimbursements for healthcare workers, and increased wage subsidy loans for rural and minority small business owners.¹¹⁵⁹

On May 15, 2020, the Trump Administration announced the national vaccine development program, Operation Warp Speed, to secure “substantial quantities of a safe and effective vaccine available for Americans by January 2021.”¹¹⁶⁰ This will be achieved through facilitating, “at an unprecedented pace, the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 countermeasures,” between the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Department of Defense; private firms; and other federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.¹¹⁶¹

In July 2020, the US Government through HHS in coordination with the Department of Defense announced their partnership with U.S.-based pharmaceutical corporation Pfizer Inc. to secure the production and initial deployment of 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine nationally.¹¹⁶² Through this licensure, the U.S. Government is able to request an additional 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, to further mitigate the impact of the coronavirus domestically, in compliance with its Operation Warp Speed commitments.¹¹⁶³

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden announced that the United States would return to being a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), reversing measures taken by President Trump to withdraw U.S. membership.¹¹⁶⁴ In a letter addressed to Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, President Biden expressed that “The United States will continue to be a full participant and a global leader in confronting such threats [coronavirus] and advancing global health and health security.”¹¹⁶⁵

¹¹⁵⁷ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

¹¹⁵⁸ Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266>.

¹¹⁵⁹ Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266>.

¹¹⁶⁰ The Trump Administration Announces OWS, The Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

¹¹⁶¹ The Trump Administration Announces OWS, The Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

¹¹⁶² US Government Secures Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/22/us-government-engages-pfizer-produce-millions-doses-covid-19-vaccine.html>.

¹¹⁶³ US Government Secures Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/22/us-government-engages-pfizer-produce-millions-doses-covid-19-vaccine.html>.

¹¹⁶⁴ Biden restores ties with the WHO that were cut by Trump, The New York Times (New York City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

¹¹⁶⁵ Biden restores ties with the WHO that were cut by Trump, The New York Times (New York City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

The United States has taken measures to strengthen health systems both domestically and globally. Domestically, the U.S. has invested in improving health systems funding for COVID-19 and reimbursements to healthcare workers, in addition to announcing a national vaccine development program. Globally, the US has restored its WHO membership, and has contributed to Gavi, COVAX, and the ACT-Accelerator, to promote equitable health systems access and improvement.

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

Analyst: Theresa Jones

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enhance and strengthen its health care systems at home and abroad.

On 26 March 2020, members of the European Council met to discuss the EU response to the coronavirus pandemic.¹¹⁶⁶ Members resolved to work to achieve five overriding goals: containing virus spread, providing medical equipment supporting vaccine research, addressing economic concerns, and repatriate citizens to their country of residence.¹¹⁶⁷

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission announced that 1.5 million masks would be delivered to the 17 member states and the United Kingdom in order to protect healthcare workers from the coronavirus.¹¹⁶⁸ This was part of a larger purchase of 10 million masks in the Emergency Support Instrument that provided pandemic support to member states.¹¹⁶⁹

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission pledged EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to help immunize 300 million children globally and deploying the coronavirus vaccine.¹¹⁷⁰

On 31 August 2020, the European Commission confirmed that it would participate in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility for equitable access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines around the world.¹¹⁷¹ As a part of this effort, the Commission announced that it would contribute EUR400 million in guarantees to support COVAX and its objectives.¹¹⁷²

¹¹⁶⁶ Video Conference of the Members of the European Council 26 March 2020, Council of the European Union 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/26>.

¹¹⁶⁷ Video Conference of the Members of the European Council 26 March 2020, Council of the European Union 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/26>.

¹¹⁶⁸ Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: March 15 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819

¹¹⁶⁹ Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: March 15 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819.

¹¹⁷⁰ Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges EUR300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989.

¹¹⁷¹ Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1540

¹¹⁷² Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1540.

On 11 November 2020, the European Commission and the Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU announced their intention to use health data from the EU to create a European Health Data Space for better healthcare, better research and better health policy making.¹¹⁷³

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission adopted a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe to ensure access to affordable medicines and to support the sustainability of the EU's pharmaceutical industry.¹¹⁷⁴ This Strategy is intended to enable Europe to cover its pharmaceutical needs even in times of crisis by creating more robust supply chains.¹¹⁷⁵

On 2 December 2020, the Commission adopted a strategy for managing the pandemic over the winter months, emphasizing the increased risk of transmission during cold weather and the need for coordination between EU members.¹¹⁷⁶

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a partnership to scale up Africa's preparedness for health emergencies, involving facilitating harmonised surveillance and diseases intelligence and the implementation of the public health workforce strategy of Africa CDC.¹¹⁷⁷ As well, the ECDC, through the European Development Fund, provided a contribution agreement of EUR9 million and a complementary grant of EUR1 million to cover staffing costs.¹¹⁷⁸

On 18 December 2020, the European Union established the Recovery and Resilience Task Force.¹¹⁷⁹ The agreement pledges EUR672.5 billion to support EU member states in their efforts to improve health and resiliency within their own countries.¹¹⁸⁰ Member states must propose recovery and resilience plans that outline frameworks for socio-economic recover that prioritizes environmental sustainability.¹¹⁸¹

On 3 February 2021, the European Commission presented Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which set out a new approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care.¹¹⁸² The Plan looks at the entire disease pathway and focuses efforts in areas that have the highest potential impacts, like reducing smoking in the EU.¹¹⁸³

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission launched the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator, a bio-defense preparedness plan against variants of COVID-19.¹¹⁸⁴

¹¹⁷³ Commission and Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU underline importance of the European Health Data Space, European Commission (Brussels) 11 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2049.

¹¹⁷⁴ Affordable, accessible and safe medicines for all: the Commission presents a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2173.

¹¹⁷⁵ Affordable, accessible and safe medicines for all: the Commission presents a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2173.

¹¹⁷⁶ Coronavirus: Commission presents "Staying safe from COVID-19 during winter" strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2254.

¹¹⁷⁷ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2320.

¹¹⁷⁸ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2320.

¹¹⁷⁹ Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397.

¹¹⁸⁰ Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397.

¹¹⁸¹ Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397.

¹¹⁸² Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: A new EU approach to prevention, treatment and care, European Commission (Brussels) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_342.

¹¹⁸³ Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: A new EU approach to prevention, treatment and care, European Commission (Brussels) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_342.

This structure will provide risk modelling, global surveillance, and vaccine and medicine research and development, among other health systems benefits.¹¹⁸⁵

On 19 February 2021, the EU pledged to double its donation to the COVAX, the vaccination arm of the World Health Organization's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.¹¹⁸⁶ The EU is one of the missions leading donors and has pledged more than EUR2.2 billion towards the equitable and secure distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in low and middle-income nations.¹¹⁸⁷

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted the EU4Health program, which provided EUR5.1 billion to strengthen health systems and innovation in the health sector.¹¹⁸⁸ The program is set to make a contribution to a post-COVID-19 recovery by fostering a healthier EU population, supporting the fight against cross-border health threats and boosting the EU's preparedness and ability to respond to future health crises.¹¹⁸⁹

The EU has undertaken efforts to improve the health care systems of member and non-member countries, especially through the production and distribution of vaccines and medical supplies seen through the EU4Health Program.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Alexandra Johnston and Gurleen Mann

¹¹⁸⁴ Von der Leyen announces the start of HERA Incubator to anticipate the threat of coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC_21_666.

¹¹⁸⁵ Von der Leyen announces the start of HERA Incubator to anticipate the threat of coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC_21_666.

¹¹⁸⁶ EU Doubles Contribution to 1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690.

¹¹⁸⁷ EU Doubles Contribution to 1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690.

¹¹⁸⁸ Commission Welcomes European Parliament adoption of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1084.

¹¹⁸⁹ Commission Welcomes European Parliament adoption of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1084.