



ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT
AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOS

G20 and Global Health

Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda

Over the past years, humanitarian crises and development policy have become more prominent topics of the G20. The group has committed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. In order to prevent future crises and attain the SDG goals, the G20's role is critical and can contribute to increased effectiveness and more coherent human development. Currently, the G20's development processes build on the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in particular the St. Petersburg Development Outlook. During the upcoming G20 presidency, the German government has the opportunity to begin reforming the G20's work in this area in order to ensure better alignment with the 2030 Agenda goals.

The topics of the G20 Development Working Group should reflect the 2030 Agenda. We call for the G20 to incorporate global health in the G20 Development Track, in order to reflect that health is not only an outcome, but also a precondition for human development. Health is also more than crisis management: Every person has a right to health.

We call on the G20 to include the following global health issues in the G20 Development Track: universal health coverage (UHC), strengthening health systems, global pandemic preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistances (AMR), research and development (R&D), tackling neglected, poverty-related and non-communicable diseases (NTDs, PRDs, NCDs), as well as the 'unfinished business' of the MDGs. We furthermore call on the G20 to strengthen the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to enable a coherent and financially coordinated global health policy.

In this paper we propose what the German government should place on the G20 agenda, and why.

Leave no one behind

The 2030 Agenda can be considered to be accomplished only if the goals are achieved for those who are most vulnerable or excluded: "As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind" (§4 2030 Agenda). Less than one year ago, all G20 members committed to "endeavour to reach the furthest behind first" (ibid). Those furthest left behind in the MDGs were children and women (MDGs 4 and 5), but also people with disabilities, without official documentation, those in hard-to reach geographical areas, ethnical minorities and people discriminated due to their sexual orientation and identity were frequently excluded or discriminated against. In order to reach the 2030 Agenda's global health goals, no one should be left behind!

The German G20 presidency should:

- strengthen equality, sexual & reproductive health and rights of all people within the framework of gender policy and global health policy;
- reflect the child-rights-based and gender-transformative approaches of implementing the 2030 Agenda in national strategies and plans (in particular SDG 5);
- prioritize maternal and child health as 'unfinished business' of the MDGs by focusing on universal access to health; and
- explicitly define the needs of vulnerable groups, and include these groups into program, legislative and social planning, which should have as their aim to achieve health service access for all groups within five years.

Strengthen health systems - prevent epidemics

Since the Alma Ata conference in 1978 global health has been defined as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." It is both a precondition and goal of sustainable development, and therefore requires a multi-sectoral approach that includes topics such as poverty, flight, equality, education, nutrition, environment and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene). When Ebola broke out in West African communities, there was not only a shortage of health workers in the region. There was also a lack of medical equipment and health systems were not prepared for crisis management, surveillance and lacked resources. Whereas tackling international global health crises such as Ebola requires strong crisis management mechanisms, preventing daily health crises that are often forgotten requires universal access to high quality health coverage (including mental health). These preventable causes result in many more deaths per year than Ebola did. Such services should also cover people who are fleeing conflict or persecution, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, drug users, sex workers and prisoners, many of whom are denied their right to equal access to health services. Strong, resilient health systems which are accessible to all, as well as medical services and products that can be accessed by and are affordable for all people are key to attaining the 2030 Agenda health goals. With the initiative "Healthy Systems - Healthy Lives" and the commitments made during the 2015 G7 presidency, the German government now has the opportunity to strengthen health systems in a practical and financial way.

During the G20 presidency Germany should

- define global health in the spirit of Alma Ata and building on the G7 priority areas of the German and Japanese presidencies, and not as narrow global health crisis management;
- support Universal Health Coverage, prioritizing the above-mentioned vulnerable groups, ensuring that local and community-based health services can partake in prevention, surveillance, rehabilitation and have sufficient funding for services, technical appliances, support services etc. that can be tailored to specific needs (e.g. disability);
- strive to have the coordinating role of a sufficiently funded World Health Organization recognized by the G20 partners including financial commitments following the WHO recommendations of 0.1% GNI for global health that supports sustainable health system strengthening;
- continuously gather and publish comparative and disaggregated data on health services (in particular for vulnerable groups such as those mentioned above); and
- support and fund applied research in order to ensure that health systems can provide those services and medical products tailored to the specific needs of people living developing countries.

Antimicrobial resistances

Antimicrobial resistances (AMR) pose a global threat. Diseases that can be treated today may become untreatable, if there is no immediate action. AMR is a universal problem that affects both rich and poorer countries. A vast gap in AMR-research also exists for both neglected and poverty-related diseases as well as new and emerging diseases such as Ebola: adequate vaccines, diagnostics and drugs are often not

available. This is due to the fact that their development only promises insufficient profits for pharmaceutical companies. Existing medical products are often not suitable for poorer countries, e.g. due to high temperatures or because they are simply not affordable. Actions taken against AMR therefore need to tackle both research and development as well as affordable access while taking into account the needs of poorer countries, e.g. for treating resistant forms of tuberculosis. The same applies for other diseases such as malaria, HIV or bacterial infections such as typhus or pneumonia.

The German G20 Presidency should

- strengthen new models for biomedical research and development and decouple research costs from final prices and sales volumes (de-linkage) while all efforts should be coordinated under the lead of WHO;
- initiate a high-level political process to implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary General's *High Level Panel on Access to Medicines* which embraces access to vaccines, diagnostics and drugs in a financially viable manner;
- improve access to existing vaccines and diagnostics, thus reducing the use of antibiotics;
- strengthen health systems in a way that the rational use of antibiotics prevents a further expansion of resistances;
- support an internationally coordinated process to develop new antibiotics and their effective, rational and sustainable use; and
- ensure that international free trade agreements do not include clauses that could restrict the globally affordable access to vaccines, diagnostics and drugs.

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