

2022 Activity Report



Redoubling our efforts

to better fight pandemics



Madagascar.

With support from L'Initiative, the Institut Pasteur backed a project to improve the treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS infections in prisons.

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Financial report



"L'Initiative: supporting health systems"

ANNE-CLAIRE AMPROU,
French Ambassador for Global Health

L'Initiative is a unique tool to support France's global health aims. It contributes towards our country's historic efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly access to health care and well-being for all.

2022 was another record-breaking year for L'Initiative, with more than 26 projects funded and 85 technical assistance missions. L'Initiative works with eligible countries, mainly in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa, to improve access to and effective implementation of Global Fund financing by providing the most vulnerable countries with support and personalized technical assistance. L'Initiative also works on the regional and national levels to help the Global Fund provide sustainable responses to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It also supports health systems and their staff, which were heavily mobilized during the COVID-19 crisis and remain fragile.

In the coming years, L'Initiative will remain fully committed to strengthening health systems, including community health organizations, and training health personnel to guarantee access to quality care for all. In line with France's new national global health strategy, L'Initiative is fully meeting the goals we have set, while respecting France's core values of human rights, gender equality, country ownership, and equitable access. To achieve the pandemic eradication targets set by the international community, we must meet the needs of countries, their health systems, and their populations.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other health challenges should encourage us even further

to expand universal health coverage. In response to these challenges, the French president has offered additional resources to strengthen the work of L'Initiative and all our partner countries.

We must be ready to take risks. We must continue to support the most fragile countries. We must take action where crises occur, as is the case in Ukraine. Indifference is not an option. The L'Initiative road map has been defined for a new triennium. The bar has been set high, which will require a coordinated response from a diverse, multifaceted, and unified Team France. ●

"An original program and relevant actions"

| **JÉRÉMIE PELLET**

CEO of Expertise France



L'Initiative is a key, long-standing program within Expertise France, the French agency for international technical cooperation. In 2022, it played an even greater role in fighting against pandemics and strengthening health systems.


In New York, in September 2022, French President Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed his support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. France has remained faithful to the spirit behind the creation of the Global Fund in 2000, proving its determination to pursue former French President Jacques Chirac's strong commitment to eliminating the AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics by 2030. France has maintained its unique status among donor countries with record contributions. By combining the power of a multilateral fund with the flexibility of a bilateral instrument, L'Initiative works closely with the countries that seek France's support.

The in-depth, on-the-ground knowledge that Expertise France has is one of the strengths of L'Initiative and is highlighted throughout this report. In 2022, a strategic evaluation and a report by the Cour des Comptes (the French national audit office) recognized the value of the actions L'Initiative has implemented or supported and noted the unique nature of the program among the variety of pandemic responses. This is due to its ability to address operational research—needed to quickly translate scientific knowledge into public policy—and human rights, as well as the capacity of partner countries to take on the management of Global Fund grants.

Providing high-level expertise, funding catalytic projects, and producing knowledge to better respond to the tragedies caused by pandemics help support efforts to achieve universal health coverage, which is essential to driving human development based on social justice. To implement the French president's priorities and manage the budget of L'Initiative, which will triple between 2023 and 2025, Expertise France is mobilizing committed teams supported by effective, innovative tools. ●

A year of

ACTION AND PREPARATION



In 2022, L'Initiative mobilized its resources to prepare eligible countries for the next Global Fund financing cycle. The goal was that they will be able to strengthen their response to AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in 2024.

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Côte d'Ivoire. After running an information campaign on HIV/AIDS transmission, Alliance Côte d'Ivoire offered testing to the local population.

Preparing eligible countries ahead of the funding cycle

2022 was a year of preparation before the opening of the 2023-2025 Global Fund funding cycle. L'Initiative simplified its processes, provided its experts with useful tools, and began supporting countries to guarantee their access to the most ambitious Global Fund programs yet.

The resources of the Global Fund were replenished in 2022. During the Seventh Replenishment Conference on September 21, President Macron announced a record Global Fund contribution from France of 1.6 billion euros for the 2023-2025 cycle: *"This replenishment is also an opportunity to scale up L'Initiative by allocating 20% of our total contribution to it."*

For L'Initiative, 2022 was an important year. Its overall budget was expanded, it launched preparations for the Seventh Global Fund funding cycle, and went to great lengths to mobilize its expert network. By supporting beneficiary countries ahead of this new cycle, they were able to submit more effective applications based on solid and updated strategic plans, thereby strengthening their health systems and offering more integrated pandemic responses.

A busier than ever year of preparation

Throughout the year, L'Initiative provided the 40 countries that are eligible for its support with access to experts to help them prepare funding applications to be submitted to the Global Fund in 2023. Boutaina Selma El Omari, Coordinator of the Global Fund Support Program Management Unit at Morocco's Ministry of Health and Social Protection says *"The support from L'Initiative*



was key to helping us prepare the national strategic plan for tuberculosis and draft our 2024-2026 funding request. It allowed us to develop a strong strategic plan and submit our request within the time scales set by the Global Fund." The teams also worked closely with the Global Fund to better meet their expectations.



28
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS APPROVED,
i.e., **4,000 days of expertise**
valued at more than **€4.5 M**

Internally, L'Initiative prepared its response to requests for support by creating specific tools that were in line with the Global Fund strategy and objectives for this new cycle. The administrative and financial processes for these missions were simplified through a specific framework agreement.

Better equipped experts

In addition to the tools and training provided by the Global Fund and its partners, L'Initiative brought together its network of experts for a day to set guidelines and share best practices. A hundred or so experts participated, either in Paris or remotely. Adeline Lautissier, Head of the Southeast Asia Unit, identified two purposes for this gathering: *"to work on helping countries with the difficult task of setting priorities with limited resources, while encouraging greater integration to strengthen health*



systems, including community, human rights, and gender equity aspects."

In addition to discussions throughout the day, experts were provided with specific resources in the form of "toolkits." The goal was to provide information about priority topics that are insufficiently documented, including pediatric HIV/AIDS testing and treatment (see page 8) and the fight against cervical cancer, which is associated

Burkina Faso. The Koubri health center hosted community volunteers for training on malaria.



with HIV (see page 26). Another major priority for L'Initiative is to integrate the needs of populations and communities, including their participation in preparing funding applications. ●



"Ensuring significant integration of community health actors and key populations in grant cycle 7" (in French), Toolkit, January 2023:

bit.ly/toolbox-OSC



CATY FALL,

Head of the Africa and Middle East Department,
Global Fund Grants Management Division

"L'Initiative, a key Global Fund partner"

Support from L'Initiative in disseminating the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Investment Case was remarkable. As a key partner, it was very flexible and creative in response to the new challenges. We appreciated our frequent interactions, our strategic discussions, the fast and flexible technical assistance, and the commitment to offering quality support. We also appreciated our agreement over the founding principle that countries should take the lead in identifying and expressing their needs. The success of the responses to disease, despite the obstacles, shows that committed and united governments, communities, and financial and technical partners can be effective.

New avenues for action against pediatric HIV

Resolutely committed to fighting pediatric AIDS, this year L'Initiative redoubled its efforts to share its expertise on the subject during international events. It also created a toolkit for experts.



Côte d'Ivoire.
Children in Menekre.

Unlike other parts of the continent, the fight against HIV is stagnating in Western and Central African countries. These areas had the worst pediatric HIV figures in 2020: children represented around 30% of new infections, and only 35% of them were receiving treatment. AIDS is the leading cause of death among young people aged 10 to 19 due to insufficient access to care. L'Initiative is pushing to make testing and treatment for children available everywhere.

Redoubling our efforts to treat children

In 2022, to help draw attention to the urgency of addressing pediatric HIV, L'Initiative participated in several international events, including a webinar organized by Sidaction and the Grandir Ensemble network, a round table at the annual conference of the Alliance Francophone des Acteurs de Santé contre le VIH et les Infections Virales Chroniques (AFRAVIH), a regional meeting organized by the Civil Society Institute for HIV and Health in West and Central Africa, and a regional seminar organized by the EVA network. These events allowed L'Initiative to recall the importance of preventing

mother-to-child transmission, ensuring access to early detection, supporting patients, and providing urgent access to appropriate treatments.

Helping to spread information about treatment options

A pediatric dose of a new antiretroviral drug, dolutegravir, is now available. However, it is still not widely available in West and Central Africa. At the end of 2022, L'Initiative created a toolkit to accelerate the transition to pediatric dolutegravir, which is a WHO-recommended treatment that is known to be effective in children. This set of documents is available online, primarily for use by experts working with L'Initiative on pediatric HIV and, more broadly, by health care providers and community health workers. ●



Transitioning to pediatric dolutegravir, Toolkit, March 2022:
bit.ly/pediatric-Dolutegravir

Highlights of 2022

EMERGENCY SUPPORT for Ukraine

The war is exacerbating the spread of infectious diseases, as Ukraine was one of the Eastern European countries most affected by HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. In April 2022, L'Initiative provided a one-off injection of 120,000 euros to support our long-standing Ukrainian partners, AFEW and 100%LIFE. In December, we created emergency funding of 5 million euros and the first financial commitments were made in January 2023. This funding allowed Ukrainian NGOs to ensure continuity of care and take emergency measures in the winter of 2022-2023 to maintain the population's health (supplying staple products, hygiene kits, blankets, clothes, etc.).

THE FIRST PROJECT to support transgender people

L'Initiative supported the REVU Trans project in Côte d'Ivoire, run by Enda Santé, which prioritizes the needs of transgender people. The main objective is to improve their access to health services. In 2020, 75% of the country's transgender population said they had never been offered care. L'Initiative believes it is essential to support transgender people, who often face discrimination, to protect their rights and meet their specific needs. Given their socio-economic vulnerability, this support also involves encouraging their inclusion and increasing their representation in health initiatives.

THE MARSА CENTER in Lebanon wins prize

The Marsa Sexual Health Center in Lebanon, which is funded by L'Initiative, was honored as part of the French Human Rights Prize in December 2022. The theme of this edition was "Sexual and reproductive rights: protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and the fight against gender inequalities." This is exactly what Marsa has been fighting for since 2010. Its goal is to decentralize health care, promote inclusive services, educate vulnerable populations about sexual and reproductive health, and offer voluntary testing.

2020-2022

Review of the last triennium

During the 2020-2022 period, which was strongly impacted by COVID-19, L'Initiative continued to help the most fragile countries fight pandemics. Alongside the work of the Global Fund, L'Initiative adapted its operations to be more effective.

Clear priorities

80%
OF FINANCIAL
COMMITMENTS IN SUB-
SAHARAN AFRICA



55%
OF MISSIONS
TO STRENGTHEN
HEALTH SYSTEMS

40%
OF PROJECTS
TO COMBAT
HIV/AIDS

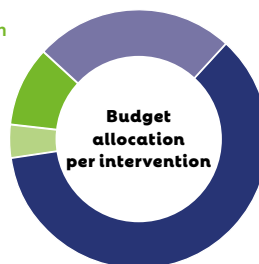


Program coordination
and monitoring costs
10%

Cross-cutting
activities
4%

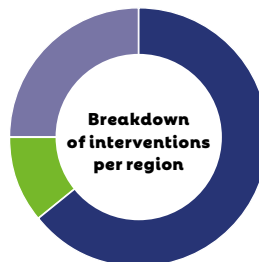
Eastern Europe,
the Middle
East and the
Caribbean
25%

Southeast Asia
11%



Technical assistance
25%

Catalytic projects
61%



Sub-Saharan Africa
64%



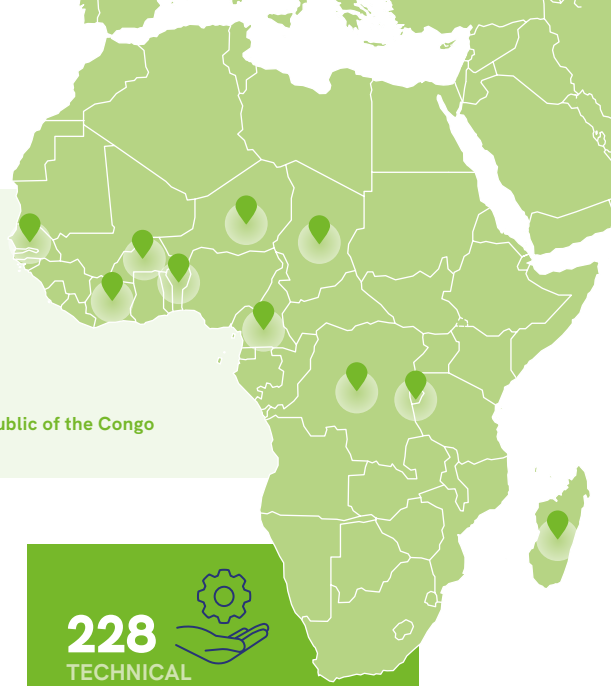
ANTOINE PEIGNEY,
Director of the Health Department
of Expertise France

In addition to multilateral investments, L'Initiative is also committed to providing each country with customized solutions. It has found a unique way to balance horizontal support for health systems with vertical approaches focused on patients and diseases. This involves patient and determined efforts to support health education, preventive health care, quality care, and treatments that are accessible to all. This takes place against a backdrop of struggle and tragedy, but also of solidarity. With L'Initiative and under the aegis of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, we will continue to explore new forms of support or approaches, and will keep taking risks.

10 countries

where technical assistance missions are concentrated

Niger
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Côte d'Ivoire
Benin
Burundi
Senegal
Chad
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Madagascar



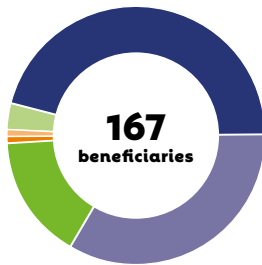
Technical Assistance (TA)

Research institutes
3.2%

Procurement centers
0.64%

International NGOs
0.64%

Local NGOs and community organizations
15.71%



167
beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of TA missions

Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs)
45.83%

National programs, ministries, etc.
33.97%

228

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS COMMITTED (THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLANS)



32,772
DAYS OF EXPERTISE APPROVED

€30.9 M
COMMITTED

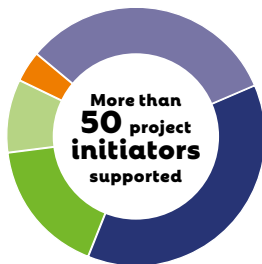


Project funding

Governmental organizations
4%

Foundations
9%

Research institutes and universities
17%



More than 50
project initiators supported

International NGOs
32%

Local NGOs and community organizations
38%

64

PROJECTS COMMITTED for a total of more than €69 M in 27 countries



AN APPROACH WHICH IS **expanding**

Recognized as the key mechanism for implementing France's global health mission, L'Initiative is adapting how it operates. With a larger budget than ever before, it is preparing to offer more effective support with fighting pandemics in order to better serve populations.

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EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES	p. 20

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Côte d'Ivoire. Alliance Côte d'Ivoire raising awareness of HIV/AIDS among men over 25.

"L'Initiative plays a key role in France's mobilization around global health"

France has long been active in supporting global health. In September 2022, it strongly reinforced its support to improve the health of populations and strengthen health systems in the most fragile countries. L'Initiative is a key part of this work.

AURÉLIEN LECHEVALLIER,

Director General of Global Affairs, Culture, Education, and International Development, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



L'Initiative, an Expertise France program launched in 2011 that serves as France's indirect contribution to the Global Fund, helps effectively implement France's global health strategy through socially responsible investment.

Promoting health as a human right

Through L'Initiative, France is helping 40 countries with their efforts to eliminate the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics by 2030, in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development. L'Initiative is a unique instrument that serves both populations and national health systems thanks to its agility and ability to tackle challenges which are often overlooked. It provides the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa, with critical technical expertise to optimize their implementation of Global Fund financing. It upholds France's results-oriented, multilateral and socially responsible vision of global health.



L'Initiative helps build health systems that maintain their resilience in response to health crises, in line with the "One Health" approach and based on scientific data to exclude guesswork and ideology. It helps strengthen national health systems by training health personnel (including community health workers) and improving access to quality health care, particularly for the most vulnerable, marginalized, or criminalized people. L'Initiative promotes gender equality in access to care and works to strengthen communities affected by the three diseases.

An agile and innovative tool

L'Initiative is agile and innovative, as exemplified by the rapid support it provided to Ukrainian civil society health organizations in 2022.

To carry out its field missions, L'Initiative mobilizes all the Team France stakeholders working in global health: French embassies and their regional global health advisors, public international cooperation organizations and research institutes (the Agence Française de Développement, the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, the Institut Pasteur, Inserm, ANRS-MIE, etc.), civil society organizations, and French foundations. It works closely with the Global Fund and all its partners.

President Macron wanted France, historically the second biggest contributor to the Global Fund, to increase its commitment to the Fund, increasing support to €1.6 billion for 2023-2025, with 20% allocated to L'Initiative. As a result of



Laos. The NGO CHIAS works in rural areas to provide information about tuberculosis.

its experience in the field and the evaluations it carries out, L'Initiative helps inform the positions France takes within the Board of the Global Fund.

Pursuing our ambitions

In a show of confidence in L'Initiative, in 2022 the French president increased its resources for the next three years. This also reflects a desire to continue to improve the efficacy of Global Fund grants on the ground to generate lasting and tangible results in eradicating the three diseases. L'Initiative will continue to showcase French expertise and spearhead global health actions based on human rights and universal values: access to health for the most vulnerable, the fight against inequalities, and national health sovereignty. ●

203,367
PEOPLE, 50% OF WHICH ARE WOMEN, HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES
as part of **63 active projects supported by L'Initiative in 2022**
and which shared their data

A strategic evaluation

to support new goals

In 2021, Expertise France commissioned a strategic and formative evaluation of L'Initiative. The aim was to adapt the L'Initiative strategy ahead of a new three-year cycle to align with the global health strategies of both France and the Global Fund.

To ensure that L'Initiative has the resources to meet these new objectives, Expertise France asked the Technopolis Group to carry out an external and independent evaluation between 2021 and 2022.

A mature instrument

Following an initial evaluation five years previously, this second review highlighted the vitality and originality of L'Initiative, as well as its unique commitment to working closely with countries. L'Initiative effectively addressed the main thematic priorities that it had set for 2020-2022, and was commended for its flexibility and its rapid and relevant responses in meeting the very diverse needs of the countries it supports. This evaluation also outlined a series of recommendations to tackle areas of improvement.

Evolving to meet priority needs

L'Initiative wants to scale up its actions and support for the most fragile countries. To do so, it transformed the Pilot Channel into The Accelerator. This change will make it possible to focus on overlooked issues in the most fragile countries, particularly those in French-speaking Africa. The Accelerator will make it possible to support or implement projects that complement the two other means by which L'Initiative can operate, based on themes set by the Steering Committee. The first priority has already been identified: human resources for health. ●

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Strengthen dialog with national authorities, CSOs, and the Global Fund at the country level
- 2 Improve the consistency of the L'Initiative interventions in partner countries
- 3 Better evaluate and consolidate the results and impacts of the Expertise Channel
- 4 Adapt The Accelerator to better respond to overlooked challenges
- 5 Support knowledge production and upscaling
- 6 Update mechanisms to support the structure of CSOs
- 7 Coordinate the pool of experts L'Initiative can mobilize

Complementary means of action

in response to pandemics

L'Initiative adapted its means of action prior to the 2023-2025 funding cycle. Although the technical assistance missions offer more sustainable improvements in the countries of intervention, increased funding is also being allocated to the Projects Channel and The Accelerator (formerly the Pilot Channel).

L'Initiative delivers technical assistance missions in eligible countries through the Expertise Channel. Each mission is tailor-made to help national and local actors fighting against pandemics access Global Fund grants and implement their projects as effectively as possible. Technical experts are mobilized for a maximum of twelve months.

L'Initiative also offers Planned Technical Assistance Programs (DATP) to build skills over the longer term. In Mauritania, for example, eight experts were appointed to work with the Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanism, the Executive Secretariat of the National AIDS Committee, and the Ministry of Health to help them better manage Global Fund grants, structure civil society organizations, and strengthen health systems.



Burundi. Testing as part of the Santé des Pêcheurs et Mareyeuses (SAPEMA) project.

20 projects selected in 2022

The Projects Channel funds projects that address priority issues which L'Initiative has identified as being complementary to Global Fund programs, through innovative and capacity-building approaches. Following three calls for projects published at the end of 2021, the Steering Committee selected 20 projects in September 2022.

The first priority of L'Initiative is to strengthen health systems. This involves improving the efficacy and skills of stakeholders on the ground, better alignment with other medical programs, and active community participation. ↓

THE ACCELERATOR:

a response to often overlooked issues

The strategic and formative evaluation of L'Initiative inspired it to adapt its Pilot Channel. With redefined priorities and support mechanisms, The Accelerator was created to meet new challenges and more specific needs.

The Accelerator reflects the desire to clarify projects and objectives initially supported by the Pilot Channel and to take action to support themes set by the Steering Committee. It complements the two "traditional" L'Initiative channels.

To identify new opportunities for action and previously overlooked challenges, L'Initiative draws on data collected during its projects, by monitoring performance indicators and the themes supported, and by listening to the needs expressed by beneficiaries and partners.

A flexible tool to address health challenges

This third mechanism aims to generate a significant catalytic effect and serve as a transformative force that can respond to overlooked challenges in the fight against pandemics and in support of health care systems. It also seeks to stimulate and support solutions that will become sources of knowledge for future upscaling efforts.

In collaboration with project beneficiaries, The Accelerator can offer several forms of support in response to requests: technical assistance, project financing, grants to institutions, operational research, seminars and training, and access to structural funds.

The goal is also to impact the Global Fund ecosystem by transforming practices.

Human resources for health: a new priority

The Accelerator should allow L'Initiative to make strategic choices to address overlooked issues in a limited number of countries among the most fragile French-speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This could include expanding the capacity of laboratories and their networks, supporting procurement centers and regulatory authorities, and strengthening community health systems.

Interventions to support human resources for health will also be prioritized until 2025. Aware of the need for long-term investment and the late addition of this topic to the scope of intervention (see pages 23-25), L'Initiative is committed to supporting programs that will increase the numbers of health care workers and improve their skills as part of this new mechanism. ●



Côte d'Ivoire. The medical staff at the detention and correctional center in Abidjan.

GENDER: a cross-cutting issue

L'Initiative encourages a cross-cutting approach to gender equality. As part of its missions, L'Initiative encourages the mobilization of experts and the development of support focused on this issue, including the assistance provided to help the Generation Equality Forum create a regional road map for sexual and reproductive rights. In 2022, starting with the negotiation phase during calls for projects, project initiators were helped to better include vulnerability factors in their projects, particularly regarding access to care. Nearly 50% of the projects selected had at least one objective relating to gender equality. One example is the NGO REACH Ethiopia, which aims to mainstream gender issues into its work to combat tuberculosis among pastoral populations.

The six projects funded (for a total of €6.9 M) include topics such as eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission in Laos, community mobilization in Lebanon and Tunisia, and improving the health care pathways of people living with HIV/AIDS in Guinea.

Another major priority is access to health services for all. Eleven projects were funded (for a total of €13.5 M) targeting populations with difficulties accessing health care, such as sex workers in Madagascar, pastoral communities in Ethiopia, and young people in Maradi and Niamey in Niger. Our third call for projects was dedicated to operational research focusing on people who are immunocompromised by HIV and infected by the human papillomavirus and cancers associated with this co-infection. Three projects were funded which seek to provide women living with HIV in Cameroon and Ghana with better access to secondary prevention of cervical cancer (see page 26).

The Accelerator replaces the Pilot Channel

This mechanism was reinvented to respond to strategic challenges by creating a catalytic effect to help drive in-depth transformations (see page 17). The Accelerator will address previously overlooked issues to help strengthen health systems. It will seize opportunities which are identified by L'Initiative partners or which emerge from specific studies. For example, in 2022, L'Initiative funded support to Aidspan, an independent NGO that observes the Global Fund's work to improve its transparency and effectiveness. Aidspan used these funds to redesign its website and craft its general and communications strategy. ●



The 2020-2025 L'Initiative strategy (in French):
bit.ly/strategie-Initiative

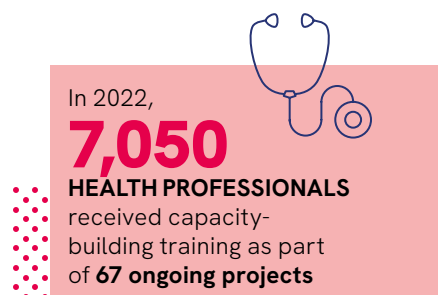
Priority to human resources for health

Many countries are experiencing shortages of health care workers, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Global Fund's new 2023-2025 funding cycle, L'Initiative has prioritized support for human resources for health, in line with France's global health strategy.

It is essential to develop, strengthen, and maintain the knowledge, skills, and practices of health professionals to meet the population's needs, strengthen health systems, and ensure good health for all. By funding actions to strengthen human resources for health, L'Initiative aims to help train health personnel, ensure better geographical distribution of practitioners, and boost the attractiveness of health care professions.

Ensuring actions are sustainable

Four projects focusing on human resources for health were evaluated in five African and Eastern European countries. These projects are part of a long-term public health vision and complement Global Fund activities. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of these actions remains a key issue. To overcome this difficulty, beneficiaries and stakeholders, particularly local health authorities, must take greater ownership of their projects. Other key elements of strengthening health systems, include funding which matches the extent of the



challenge, and project initiators increasing their skills through appropriate training.

More focused attention during calls for projects

As part of the Projects Channel, L'Initiative encourages project initiators to highlight their consideration of human resources for health issues in their proposals. For example, the BFELTP program in Burkina Faso plans to train 60 professionals in epidemiology for West Africa while integrating gender and the "One Health" approaches. A learning platform and international conferences will be created for this purpose. The Accelerator has prioritized strengthening human resources for health by supporting programs focused on increasing the numbers and skills of health professionals. ●



"Human resources for health skills strengthening", cross-cutting project evaluations, January 2023: bit.ly/human-ressources



"We have exceptional resources **to overcome challenges**"

ÉRIC FLEUTELOT,

Technical Director of the Major Pandemics Unit,
Health Department, Expertise France

2022, the year of the Global Fund Replenishment Conference, was an important milestone for L'Initiative with a major budget increase. With its new strategy, it is preparing to increase its work in eligible countries to fight the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics.

The past year was particularly intense. It saw L'Initiative deliver a record number of technical assistance missions and support more projects than ever before. The Seventh Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria also took place in 2022.

Pursuing our commitment to eradicate pandemics

As a result of renewed commitment from France, led by its President, and many other countries, the Global

Fund now has the resources to better contribute towards fighting pandemics. Does this mean the goal of eliminating these diseases by 2030 will be achieved? Nothing could be less certain.

Although each of the countries in which we work is making remarkable efforts, they are often hampered by very challenging health or safety-related circumstances (such as COVID-19) and face differing levels of crises. For example, the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, particularly on energy and grain prices, have had an even starker impact on the most fragile

countries. This is compounded by legal or social environments that may slow or completely halt progress for those who face the most discrimination.

We must continue to work tirelessly to overcome these constraints, boosted by these exceptional resources. France has increased its contribution to the Global Fund and the share allocated to L'Initiative, thereby demonstrating its desire to combine strong multilateral investment with a bilateral, customized response that involves the entire Team France and its partners in the 40 eligible countries.

Enhancing our support to strengthen health systems

Following a largely positive external evaluation, and a report by the Cour des Comptes (the French national audit office) that highlighted the value of allocating part of France's Global Fund contribution to L'Initiative, we can better prepare for the future in close collaboration with countries and all our stakeholders. We have updated our strategy to ensure L'Initiative is ready for action. We are now prepared to intensify the actions we undertake and the support we provide, particularly to the most fragile countries.

L'Initiative is determined to enhance the expertise it offers to facilitate access to Global Fund financing and improve the efficacy of its investments in the countries it supports. At the same time, it is striving to strengthen health systems, particularly around human resources for health. After all,

"We are now prepared to intensify the actions we undertake and the support we provide, particularly to the most fragile countries."

no progress is possible if we, in collaboration with our partners, do not invest more in human resources. To transform the financial commitments of Global Fund donors into relevant and effective activities, we need women and men who are trained, skilled, and available to provide the services needed for prevention, screening, and diagnostics, as well as social and medical care for people affected by pandemics. L'Initiative is just as committed to gender mainstreaming at all levels, an evidence-based approach, and the defense and promotion of human rights. For L'Initiative, French-speaking Africa remains the priority area of intervention.

Though we now bear exceptional responsibilities, we also have exceptional resources. Expertise France will overcome the challenges we face to better serve countries, their populations, the Global Fund, and the values that France upholds. ●



Burundi. Campaign to raise awareness of and test for pandemics as part of the SAPEMA project.

Stronger

HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE



In addition to fighting pandemics, L'Initiative works to initiate in-depth change in health systems in the most fragile countries. Through various support mechanisms, it helps develop a range of actions for greater justice in health systems.

TRANSFERRING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE p. 25

FIGHTING AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER p. 26

THE "ONE HEALTH" APPROACH p. 27



11th edition of the AFRAVIH conference in May 2022 in Marseille.

Contributing to universal health coverage

In light of the difficulties facing the most fragile countries, the work of L'Initiative to improve health systems could inspire bold changes that are better suited to people's needs.

Lack of investment, staff shortages, and overlooked needs represent just some of the deficiencies of health systems in the most fragile countries. Simply strengthening these systems will not generate quality health care. Though the contribution from L'Initiative is minimal compared to the magnitude of the challenge, health authorities and their technical and financial partners can take inspiration from the programs and approaches it supports.

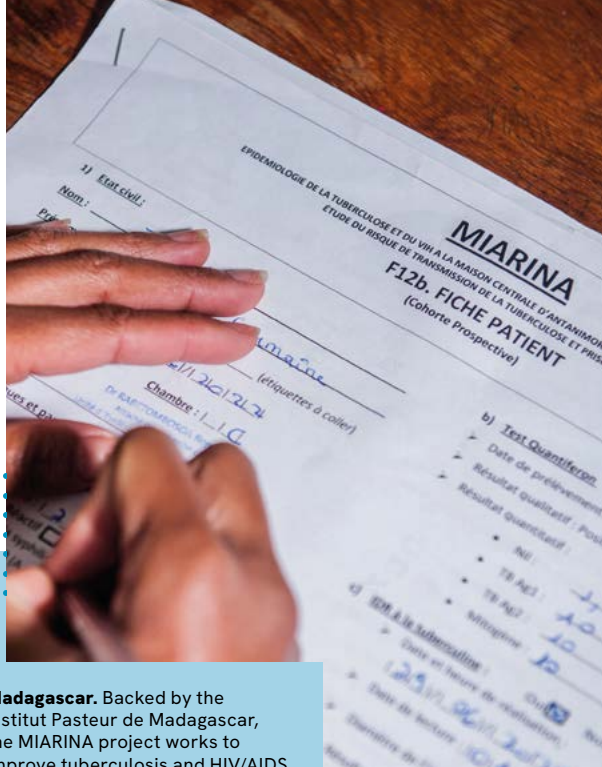
Taking action at all levels

To fight pandemics, we must use a range of actions designed to support the pillars of health systems in addition to more targeted actions. This is why L'Initiative is active in all areas. Through its technical assistance and the projects it funds, L'Initiative helps strengthen epidemiological surveillance, laboratory networks, health information systems, and supply chains. It also supports the development of human resources for health (see page 19) and encourages national health programs to draw on research findings (see pages 24 and 26).



Focusing on needs

For more balanced health services, it is essential to encourage the development of treatment options that are focused on peoples' needs. L'Initiative supports a more holistic, upstream-focused approach that goes beyond fighting against diseases and their consequences. More generally, the projects supported by Expertise France contribute towards achieving universal health coverage so everyone can have affordable access to essential health services. Expanding access to care, reducing inequalities, and improving the quality of services all require significant structural and political changes that need to be implemented by national health authorities and their partners to guarantee the sustainability and resilience of health systems in response to future challenges. ●



Madagascar. Backed by the Institut Pasteur de Madagascar, the MIARINA project works to improve tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment in prisons.

IMPORTANT RESULTS for diagnosing tuberculosis in children

Each year, one million children are infected with tuberculosis, and less than half are diagnosed and treated, leading to more than 200,000 deaths per year. Through its 2016 call for projects, L'Initiative helped fund a study on children with severe pneumonia to evaluate the feasibility and impact on mortality of testing for TB. This study was conducted by the TB-Speed consortium, comprising the University of Bordeaux, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Inserm, and MU-JHU (a collaboration between Makerere

University in Uganda and Johns Hopkins University in the US). In November 2022, a prestigious peer-reviewed journal published results showing that it is possible to test for tuberculosis in children admitted for severe pneumonia. The study also recommended more systematic use of the Xpert Ultra test to improve diagnosis in children, particularly those suffering from severe acute malnutrition. It also confirmed the significant role tuberculosis plays in causing severe pneumonia in children.



"Effect of systematic tuberculosis detection on mortality in young children with severe pneumonia in countries with high incidence of tuberculosis: a stepped-wedge cluster-randomised trial", *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, November 14, 2022, bit.ly/thelancet-tuberculosis

Technical assistance to transfer scientific knowledge

As part of its technical assistance work, L'Initiative supports skills development among applied science researchers, program managers, and policy-makers to help them better integrate research findings into the fight against pandemics.

Research teams on the ground may face difficulties making their findings accessible to other actors fighting against pandemics. Through its technical assistance work, L'Initiative helps build bridges between researchers and those working on the ground, from operational players to policy-makers, by offering training on how to transfer knowledge. The goal is for health stakeholders to take ownership of research findings to ultimately improve disease management and control.

Increasing the dissemination of research findings

Between October 2021 and October 2022, a knowledge transfer mission was conducted with members of the PAC-CI program in Côte d'Ivoire, which L'Initiative has supported since 2019. The goal was to improve their ability to share and promote national research findings so they could be included in strategic and operational priorities in the fight against pandemics. Participants developed communication and advocacy tools to fight cervical cancer, the issue that had been chosen as the focus of this work.

Improving project interventions and implementation

In Madagascar, from April to June 2022, we supported 10 people affiliated with research institutes, civil society organizations, and government agencies to help increase the impact of their project. This group included the MIARINA project team, backed by the Institut Pasteur de Madagascar, which aims to improve the comprehensive treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in prisons. This mission allowed training participants to create a policy brief on the involvement of inmates in prison-based health activities. This brief led to certain inmates receiving training on basic health care and first aid, and they now play a recognized role. ●

Taking action to fight cervical cancer

A link between HIV/AIDS, the human papillomavirus (HPV), and cancer has been established. Immunocompromised women are more vulnerable to HPV infection, which can lead to cervical cancer. As part of our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS co-infections, L'Initiative is supporting research projects on the topic.



3
PROJECTS FUNDED
for a total of
€3,629,372

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women. In 2020, 342,000 deaths were recorded, 90% of them in low- and middle-income countries. Women living with HIV are six times more likely to develop cervical cancer. The fight against HPV-associated cancers and the fight against HIV/AIDS are therefore linked.

Encouraging dedicated research

In 2022, L'Initiative dedicated its call for operational research projects to HIV/HPV co-infection and related cancers, selecting three projects. In Cameroon, the French research institute Bouisson Bertrand wants to assess a strategy for including cervical cancer screening as part of a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health program, while the IRD is attempting to optimize strategies to screen for this type of cancer when women living with HIV test positive for HPV. In Ghana, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research wants to assess the acceptability and reliability of self-sampling for HPV tests, and, more broadly, to determine how to incorporate this screening into routine care for women living with HIV.

SUCCESS: effective upscaling

To scale up the fight against cervical cancer, it is essential to encourage the inclusion into national plans of approaches that have been proven to work through research or pilot projects. The SUCCESS project is a good example of this. Since it was launched at the end of 2019, the project has seen its innovative approaches integrated into cervical cancer prevention standards, strategic plans, and national education, information, and communication tools. SUCCESS encourages the systematic use of HPV tests and an approach that combines screening with thermal ablation to treat precancerous lesions. The project is being carried out with the support of Unitaid in four countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, and the Philippines) and 116 sites. Its goal is to screen 175,000 women, 40% of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. ●



"Engagement in the cervical cancer response, various HIV integration opportunities," Toolkit, July 2022: bit.ly/toolbox-cancer-uterus-



"The 'One Health' approach can be an effective response to the challenge of malaria"

CLARISSE VEYLON-HERVET,
Regional Global Health Advisor for the Southeast Asia region

Clarisse Veylon-Hervet describes "One Health," a holistic approach to human, animal, and environmental health, and its potential for locally eliminating all forms of malaria by 2030.

What does the "One Health" approach contribute to the fight against malaria?

It can offer a response to the challenge of malaria, particularly in the Greater Mekong region, since changing climate conditions increase the risk of epidemics and viral transmission between wildlife and humans, jeopardizing efforts to fight the pandemic. We need to take better account of interactions between mosquitoes and humans, as well as the environment, both in terms of prevention and when implementing anti-malaria interventions. The "One Health"

approach requires a change in mentality and a shift from a vertical, anthropocentric approach to one that is integrated and multidisciplinary. It will take time to integrate this approach into programs.

How can this approach fit into France's actions?

Despite years of progress, malaria cases have begun to rise again. To help achieve the global goal of "zero malaria", France is working with its partners to fund research and improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment among affected populations. It will be interesting to see how the

"One Health" approach can be fully incorporated into future operations. Ways of integrating this approach were discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting for RAI, a Global Fund grant to fight malaria in Southeast Asia. There is talk of the civil society platform taking action on the issue and proposing interventions that could take place under the new grant, starting in 2024. The new global health strategy will integrate the "One Health" approach in a cross-cutting way. ●

Financial Report

2022

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2022

€33,691,370

including

€5,232,370 FOR SKILLS MOBILIZATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS

This figure represents total expenditure for the Expertise Channel in 2022, including residential support (DATP) to Global Fund grant management units in Mauritania, Niger, and Chad.

€21,248,764 TO SUPPORT CATALYTIC PROJECTS

This figure represents expenditures to finance intervention, pilot, and operational research projects.

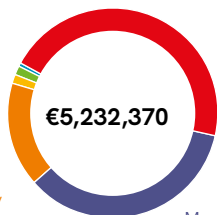
Expenditure per beneficiary

Private research institutes
€22,951

Procurement centers
€76,848

International NGOs
€85,316

Local NGOs and community organizations
€836,541



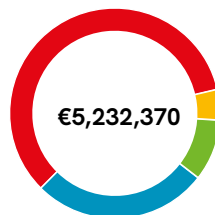
Other governmental organizations
€1,832,015

Skill mobilization and technical assistance (including DATP)

Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs)
€2,378,698

Expenditure per pandemic

Strengthening health systems/
Cross-cutting issues
€3,073,737

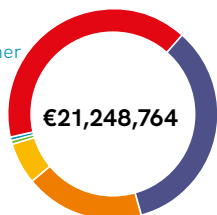


Malaria
€252,037

Tuberculosis
€489,662

HIV/AIDS
€1,416,934

Private companies/Other
€100,870



International NGOs
€8,523,458

Support to catalytic projects

Local NGOs and community organizations
€7,266,500

Strengthening health systems/
TB-HIV co-infection/
Cross-cutting issues
€9,346,804

COVID-19
€136,375

Malaria
€1,279,877

Procurement centers
€107,429

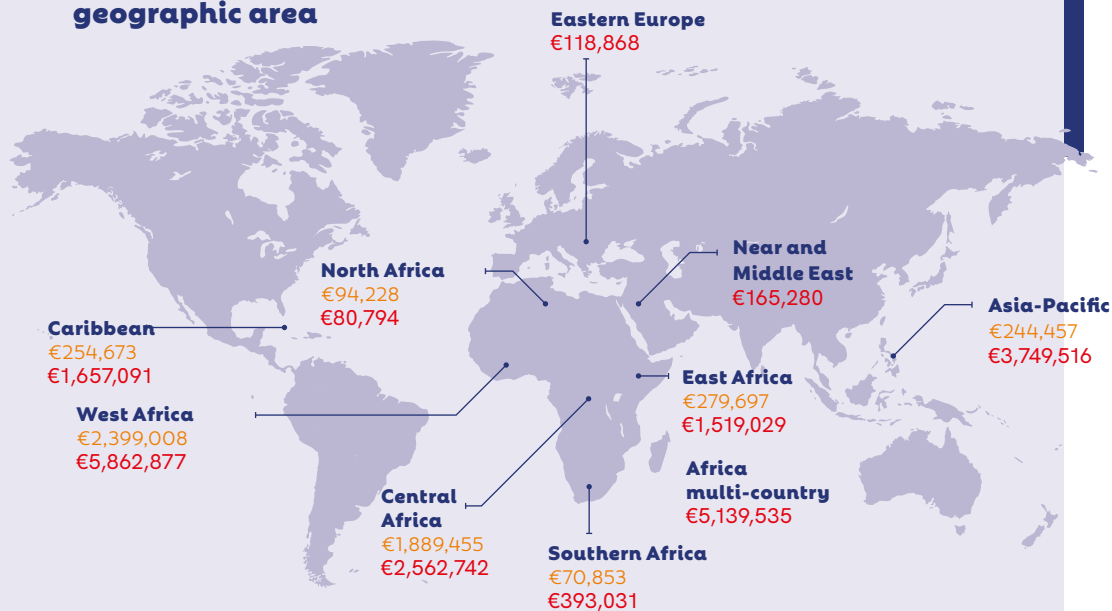
Governmental organizations
€1,346,752

Research institutes, schools, universities, and foundations
€3,903,755

HIV/AIDS
€9,213,085

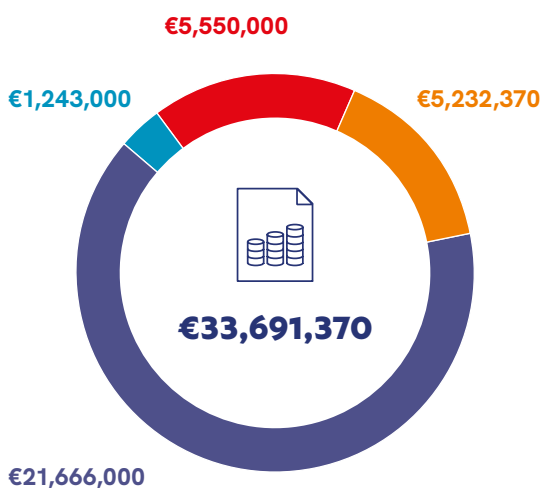
Tuberculosis
€1,272,622

Expenditures per geographic area



- Technical assistance mobilized (including DATP)
- Project funding

€5,232,370
€21,248,764



Breakdown of expenditure per type of activity

- Skills mobilization/technical assistance
- Support to catalytic projects
This figure represents expenditure through the Projects Channel and the Pilot Channel, and includes the costs of organizing calls for projects.
- Cross-cutting activities and operations (audits and evaluations, communication, cross-cutting expenditures)
- Coordination and program monitoring costs



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