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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team.....	4
Summary.....	5
Final Compliance Score.....	5
Compliance by Member.....	5
Compliance by Commitment.....	5
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	6
Table A: 2023 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*.....	7
Table B: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Final Compliance Scores.....	9
Table C: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Final Compliance Scores by Member.....	10
Table D: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Final Compliance Scores by Commitment.....	11
1. Regional Security: Sanctions.....	12
2. Regional Security: Security Assistance for Ukraine.....	45
3. Non-Proliferation: Responsible Nuclear Supply Chain.....	72
4. Climate Change: Domestic Mitigation Measures.....	103
5. Climate Change: Emission Reduction Policies.....	127
6. Energy: Clean Energy Technologies.....	159
7. Energy: Low Carbon and Renewable Hydrogen Markets.....	223
8. Environment: Conservation Measures.....	298
9. Food and Agriculture: Healthy and Safe Diets.....	331
10. Food and Agriculture: Food Safety and Sustainable Production.....	358
11. Health: Life Expectancy.....	404
12. Human Rights: Forced Labour.....	480
13. Education: Inclusivity and Equity.....	499
14. Gender: Labour Markets.....	528
15. Labour and Employment: Job Creation.....	551
16. Digital Economy: Digital Ecosystem with Trust.....	578
17. Macroeconomics: Fiscal Sustainability and Price Stability.....	605
18. Crime and Corruption: Synthetic Drugs.....	643
19. Development: Official Development Assistance.....	662
20. Trade: Resilient Supply Chains.....	705

## 11. Health: Life Expectancy

“We commit to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC [universal health coverage] by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG [Sustainable Development Goal] 3.”

*G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	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

For the first time in more than seven decades, life expectancy trends are showing a noticeable reversal, signaling a significant public health challenge. This alarming reversal is driven by multiple factors, including the impact of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health conditions, and the strain inflicted by health crises, notably the Covid-19 pandemic. Acknowledging the vital link between access to healthcare services and life expectancy, the G7 emphasized at its 2023 Hiroshima Summit the pivotal role of universal health coverage (UHC) and committed to reversing this decline.<sup>2387</sup> The decline in health expectancy highlights the need to align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all.

UHC was first mentioned at the 2000 G8 Okinawa Summit in the context of improving accessibility and affordability of drugs, vaccines, treatments and other preventative measures in developing countries.<sup>2388</sup>

Highlights on the G7’s governance of health, and more specifically UHC and SDG 3, follow:

At the 1983 Williamsburg Summit, G7 leaders agreed to “strengthen cooperation” in health research.<sup>2389</sup> This commitment fostered international collaboration in addressing pressing global health challenges.

At the 1986 Tokyo Summit, G7 leaders emphasized their resolution to “pursue effective international action to eliminate the abuse of drugs” and create a healthy environment to pass on to future environments.

At the 1987 Venice Summit, G7 leaders recognized that Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) may be one of the largest health problems in the world.<sup>2390</sup> International cooperation was emphasized to strengthen existing organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

<sup>2387</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto). 20 May 2023. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communiqué.html>

<sup>2388</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 4 February 2015. Access Date: 12 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>2389</sup> Declaration on Economic Recovery, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 10 February 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1983williamsburg/communiqué.html>

<sup>2390</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 10 April 2020. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>

At the 1993 Tokyo Summit, G7 leaders addressed the increasing cost of health care in member countries.<sup>2391</sup> Leaders recognize the importance of controlling overall outlays and the need to strengthen the efficiency of health care systems by reviewing the coverage of medical insurance and encouraging the reduction of competition in the provision of medical services.

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders with Russia emphasized their support of the efforts of WHO to “combat emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases,” as well as the joint United-Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS) to fuel international efforts toward the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.<sup>2392</sup> Furthermore, G8 members agreed on the creation and implementation of various mechanisms to aid in the prevention, detection, surveillance, and response to the emergence and re-emergence of communicable diseases.

At the 1997 Denver Summit, G8 leaders discussed the opportunities and challenges of aging populations, noting that “increased life expectancy and improved health among [the] elderly are two major achievements of this century.”<sup>2393</sup> Leaders agreed on the importance of learning from each other’s policies and programs to promote active aging and fuel structural reforms to preserve and strengthen pension, health, and long-term care systems. The importance of protecting the health of children, particularly in the context of environmental hazards and threats was also emphasized. The urgency of preventing transmission of HIV infection and the development of AIDS was noted to be an urgent global public imperative. Leaders noted that governments will promote the “more effective coordination of international responses to outbreaks,” as well as promote the development of a global surveillance network and build upon national and regional surveillance systems.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders pledged to a shared international effort to enhance mutual cooperation on both infectious and parasitic diseases to support WHO’s efforts.<sup>2394</sup> The new initiative to ‘Roll Back Malaria’ was supported, and the French proposal for a ‘Therapeutic Solidarity Initiative’ was welcomed for the prevention and treatment of AIDS. G8 leaders emphasized that their efforts to reduce the global impact of AIDS will continue through vaccine development, preventative programs and appropriate therapy, and continued support for UNAIDS.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders emphasized their efforts to mobilize new and existing medical, technical and financial resources to strengthen health delivery systems and break the cycles of disease and poverty.<sup>2395</sup> Members committed themselves to work in strengthened partnerships with governments, WHO, various international organizations, industries, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors to deliver on UN targets. Leaders also committed to “pursue healthy ageing policies that permit a continued high quality of life.”<sup>2396</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders emphasized that strong national health systems “will continue to play a key role in the delivery of effective prevention, treatment, and care in improving access to essential health

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<sup>2391</sup> Economic Declaration: A Strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth , G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 9 July 1993. Access Date: 10 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html>

<sup>2392</sup> Chairman's Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 29 June 1996. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html>

<sup>2393</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 1 February 2015. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

<sup>2394</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 15 September 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

<sup>2395</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 4 February 2015. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>2396</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 4 February 2015. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

services and commodities without discrimination.”<sup>2397</sup> Leaders recognize that an effective response to HIV/AIDS, among other diseases, will require society-wide action beyond the health sector.

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G8 leaders agreed to strengthen the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and improve access to health care, including drugs and treatments at prices affordable to those in poorer countries<sup>2398</sup> In addition, leaders agreed to promote research on diseases most affecting developing countries, mobilize funding needed to eradicate polio by 2004, as well as improve international cooperation against new epidemics, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 leaders recognized that a strong response to the “threat of infectious diseases, the leading cause of death worldwide, is essential to global development and to the well-being of the world’s population.”<sup>2399</sup> Leaders committed to strengthening the global network for the surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases, fighting the highly pathogenic avian influenza, increasing global preparedness for a human pandemic, and combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Access to prevention, treatment, and care in countries around the world was highlighted as essential to curbing infectious diseases. Leaders also emphasized the health consequences of natural and man-made disasters and reaffirmed “the importance of the coordinating role played by the United Nations in the area of humanitarian emergency response.”

At the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G8 leaders emphasized the “importance of comprehensive approaches to address the strengthening of health systems.”<sup>2400</sup> Leaders noted that “reliable health systems require a reliable health workforce” and that it is of importance to build upon the commitments made on neglected tropical diseases at St. Petersburg.

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, G8 leaders recognized that the health situation in Africa, which was already burdened by infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, was further aggravated by the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases.<sup>2401</sup> Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to address the health needs of vulnerable populations.

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders recognized that progress toward Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5, improving maternal health, and MDG 4, reducing child mortality, is too slow.<sup>2402</sup> Leaders affirmed their support to “reduce the number of maternal, newborn, and under five child deaths as a matter of immediate humanitarian and development concern.” G8 members have contributed over USD4.1 billion annually in international development, and it is at this summit that the G8 leaders endorse and launch the Muskoka Initiative, a “comprehensive and integrated approach to accelerate progress towards MDGs 4 and 5 that will significantly reduce the number of maternal, newborn, and under five child deaths in developing countries.”<sup>2403</sup>

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders affirmed their commitment to “improving maternal health and reducing child mortality, most notably through the Muskoka Initiative for Maternal, Newborn and Child

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<sup>2397</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>2398</sup> Chair’s Summary. G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 9 February 2007. Access Date: 30 September 2023.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/communiqué\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/communiqué_en.html)

<sup>2399</sup> Fight Against Infectious Diseases, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 28 April 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>

<sup>2400</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 April 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

<sup>2401</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 20 November 2010. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>2402</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 April 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communiqué.html>

<sup>2403</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 April 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communiqué.html>

Health.”<sup>2404</sup> Leaders also committed to working together with major bilateral donors, global health programmes, and country coordination initiatives to improve “funds’ implementation of aid effectiveness.”

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders noted that they “remain committed to the Muskoka Initiative on maternal, newborn, and child health,” as well as “welcome the call made at Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit in Toronto”<sup>2405</sup> to expedite global progress on this priority. Further, leaders support the Global Health Security Agenda to work with partner countries to “strengthen compliance with the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) International Health Regulations and enhance health security around the world.”

At the 2015, Elmau Summit, G7 leaders committed to continuing their engagement in the field of health “with a specific focus on strengthening health systems through bilateral programmes and multilateral structures.”<sup>2406</sup> Leaders noted that the Ebola crisis has shed light on the global need to improve the capacity for prevention, protection, detection, reporting, and response to public health emergencies. G7 leaders further noted their support for the adoption of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as emphasized their commitment to the One Health approach wherein all areas, human health, animal health, agriculture, and the environment, are encompassed. Leaders also committed to the “fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)” shedding light on the vital role research plays in the “development and implementation of new means of tackling NTDs.” Leaders also noted that they will continue to advocate for “accessible, affordable, quality and essential health services for all” as part of their health system strengthening efforts.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders emphasized the need for health systems to develop universal health coverage, which includes addressing noncommunicable diseases, “including those due to environmental factors and aging.”<sup>2407</sup> Leaders also pledged to support the work of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases and acknowledge the impacts of ageing and noncommunicable diseases on the caregivers of the elderly population.<sup>2408</sup> This summit marked a shift in the global health agenda to include mental health, as G7 leaders also committed to “promoting women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ mental and physical health, ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights without discrimination of any kind.”<sup>2409</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders committed to advancing global health security and pursuing policies regarding both physical and mental health globally by “strengthening health systems, preparedness for, and a prompt, effective and coordinated response to public health emergencies and long-term challenges.”<sup>2410</sup> This commitment acknowledged global health’s importance to broader economic, social and security gains, highlighting the importance of continuing to promote women’s and adolescents’ health and healthcare, as well as the role of environmental factors in human health.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to “bringing greater attention to mental health” to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure citizens lead healthy

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<sup>2404</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 11 June 2011. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>

<sup>2405</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 24 May 2018. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

<sup>2406</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 11 June 2015. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

<sup>2407</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 24 May 2018. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#health>

<sup>2408</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health. G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 28 May 2016. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>

<sup>2409</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 24 May 2018. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#health>

<sup>2410</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 May 2017. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

and productive lives.<sup>2411</sup> To ensure that citizens lead healthy lives, leaders are also committed to promoting access to quality and affordable healthcare.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders acknowledged the physical and mental health needs of survivors of sexual violence.<sup>2412</sup> Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to “support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of [conflict-related sexual violence] victims’ specific medical, psychological and social needs” through the adoption of the Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders addressed Covid-19’s impacts on physical and mental health.<sup>2413</sup> Leaders committed to “support a robust global recovery from Covid-19, ensuring that countries are able to effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the [Covid-19] pandemic.”

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to support the integral role of WHO and contribute to WHO’s goal of 70 per cent Covid-19 vaccination coverage worldwide.<sup>2414</sup> Furthermore, leaders addressed that they will continue to support “health sovereignty at national and regional levels” by generating greater support to “local vaccine production, distribution and scientific research worldwide.” Leaders pledged to further advance universal health coverage and “strengthen equitable and resilient and gender-responsive health systems as well as the global health architecture while working towards appropriate financing mechanisms.”

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2023 Hiroshima summit, leaders committed to “reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3.”<sup>2415</sup> Centring around life expectancy outcomes, the commitment entails a two-pronged approach. The first main goal involves movement towards and/or enhancement of UHC and the second goal commits members to address the 13 targets outlined in SDG 3. The commitment does not identify a date or specific numerical target by which the reversal should be measured against or achieved. This report therefore monitors the strength of the compliant actions, with very strong action (defined in further detail below) required to show progress towards full compliance with reversing the decline in life expectancy.

### **Definitions and Concepts**

“Commit” is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.<sup>2416</sup>

“Reverse” refers to changing the direction of something to its opposite.<sup>2417</sup>

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<sup>2411</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 9 June 2018. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

<sup>2412</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>2413</sup> G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-carbis-bay-health-declaration.html>

<sup>2414</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 24 February 2022. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220224-statement.html>

<sup>2415</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto). 20 May 2023. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communiqu.html>

<sup>2416</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>2417</sup> Reverse, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reverse>

“Global decline” in the context of life expectancy refers to the demonstrated drop from 72.8 to 71 in the years from 2019 to 2021.<sup>2418</sup>

“Life expectancy” refers to the average number of years that a newborn could expect to live, if he or she were to pass through life exposed to the sex- and age-specific death rates prevailing at the time of his or her birth, for a specific year, in a given country, territory, or geographic area.<sup>2419</sup>

“UHC” or universal health coverage is understood to mean that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It covers the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care across the life course.<sup>2420</sup>

“SDG 3” refers to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. SDG 3 outlines targets in 13 areas: 1) reducing global maternal mortality; 2) ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5; 3) ending epidemics such as of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and tropical diseases; 4) reducing premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases; 5) preventing and treating substance abuse; 6) reducing road traffic injuries; 7) ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services; 8) achieving universal health coverage; 9) preventing mortality and illness from pollutants, chemicals and contamination; 10) strengthening implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; 11) supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines; 12) increasing financing towards recruitment, development, training, and retention of the healthcare workforce in developing countries; 13) strengthening capacity for early warning of global and national health risks. Emphasis is often placed on aiding developing countries especially least developed countries and small island states. Actions that tangibly address the SDG 3 targets include legislation, regulation, new funding or increased allocations to specifically relevant programs.

### **General Interpretive Guidelines**

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that exemplify demonstrable strong action towards both UHC and a minimum of seven specific targets within the thirteen targets of SDG 3 (representing a majority of the targets, in line with the strong language of the commitment “to reverse.”). This can include both domestic and international actions. Examples of strong actions which would contribute to compliance include but are not limited to: legislation to expand health coverage towards UHC and/or public health coverage, increasing funding to support existing programs, and establishing or enlarging public drug coverage or extended health benefits such as paramedical services (physio, chiropractic) vision care, dental services, and mental health (psychological services). Strong actions towards individual SDG targets include but are not limited to legislation, regulation, new funding or increased allocation to specifically relevant programs.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that demonstrate weak action towards UHC and a minimum of 7 specific targets within SDG 3 or strong tangible action towards UHC and less than 7 specific targets within SDG 3. Weak or partial actions refer to efforts that are weaker than those listed above dealing with legislation, policy, financing and investments. These include statements of support, committee explorations, conference attendance relevant to the above, diplomatic efforts, public awareness efforts, information or knowledge sharing, and reiterations of support for the commitment. Note that, in line with World Health Organization guiding principles, tax credits or deductions that contribute towards UHC should

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<sup>2418</sup> World Population Prospects: Summary of Results, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division (New York) 2022. Access Date: 28 September 2023.

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/wpp2022\\_summary\\_of\\_results.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/wpp2022_summary_of_results.pdf)

<sup>2419</sup> Life expectancy at birth (years) World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023.

<https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/65>

<sup>2420</sup> Universal Health Coverage (UHC) World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 29 September 2023.

[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-\(uhc\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc))



be weighted less heavily than universal public options because of the upfront out-of-pocket cost barriers for citizens.<sup>2421</sup>

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member demonstrates neither strong action towards UHC nor 7 specific targets within SDG 3.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not taken action towards universal health coverage (UHC) nor seven specific targets within Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.
0	The G7 member has taken either strong action towards UHC or for SDG 3 (measured as a minimum of seven specific targets) or some of both.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action towards both UHC and SDG 3 (measured as a minimum of seven specific targets).

*Compliance Director: Jacob Rudolph  
Lead Analyst: Catherine Diyakonov*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 23 May 2023, Minister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos announced more than CAD15.4 million in funding over five years to Francophone universities in Ontario to increase health services for Francophones living in a minority setting in Northern Ontario offer health care services in French.<sup>2422</sup> The project also aims to increase recruitment and capacity for training additional bilingual health service providers.

On 24 May 2023, Minister Duclos announced grants to four researchers in neuroscience: Dr. Emma G. Duerden of Western University, Dr. Lisa Saksida of Western University, Dr. Sylvia Villeneuve of the Douglas Hospital Research Centre, and Dr. Signe Bray of the University of Calgary.<sup>2423</sup> This aims to increase research and possible treatments for neurological illnesses and better understand how brain disruptions put children and youth at risk for behavioural and mental health challenges.

On 26 May 2023, Minister Duclos announced an investment of up to CAD43 million over the next five years to support the adaptation of the health sector to the changing climate.<sup>2424</sup> This includes actions like increased efforts to protect people's health from extreme indoor heat and supporting resilient and low-carbon health systems that can respond to health risks caused by climate change.

<sup>2421</sup> Universal Health Coverage (UHC) World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 October 2023. Access Date: 21 Nov 2023. [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-\(uhc\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc))

<sup>2422</sup> Government of Canada improves access to health services for official language minority communities, Health Canada (Sudbury) 23 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-improves-access-to-health-services-for-official-language-minority-communities.html>

<sup>2423</sup> Government of Canada supports research to improve brain health, Health Canada (London) 24 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-supports-research-to-improve-brain-health.html>

<sup>2424</sup> Government of Canada invests CAD 42.9 million to support individuals and the health sector to adapt to our changing climate, Health Canada (Québec) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-invests-429-million-to-support-individuals-and-the-health-sector-to-adapt-to-our-changing-climate.html>

On 26 May 2023, Health Canada reached a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>2425</sup> The partnership will expedite and improve access to medicines and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 29 May 2023, Member of Parliament for Sudbury Vivian Lapointe, on behalf of the Honorable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, announced more than CAD930,000 in funding for the Go-Give Mobile Outreach Program through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program to increase capacity and extend hours of service of distributing food, first aid and harm reduction supplies.<sup>2426</sup>

On 31 May 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister of Health and Wellness for Prince Edward Island Mark McLane announced that the province will expand its provincial drug coverage to reduce co-pays for almost 60 per cent of medications regularly used by residents, improving affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs and better health outcomes for residents.<sup>2427</sup>

On 31 May 2023, Minister Bennett announced that Canada will require health warnings to be printed directly on individual cigarettes.<sup>2428</sup> The aim is to make health warnings impossible to avoid and reduce the appeal of tobacco. They will also strength and update health-related messages on tobacco product packages as part of their efforts.

On 1 June 2023, Minister Duclos announced over CAD1.4 million in funding over two years to the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, to provide greater access to information for people with disabilities, their caregivers and the organizations that support them.<sup>2429</sup>

On 5 June 2023, Minister Bennett announced regulatory changes to schedule novel fentanyl precursors under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.<sup>2430</sup> This allows law enforcement to take action against the illegal importation, distribution and use of these precursor chemicals, which are used in the illegal production of fentanyl by illegal drug producers.

On 6 June 2023, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD361 million spread over 10 years in Northwest Territories, including CAD73 million for a bilateral agreement focusing on shared priorities,

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<sup>2425</sup> MHRA announces new recognition routes to facilitate safe access to new medicines with seven international partners, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-announces-new-recognition-routes-to-facilitate-safe-access-to-new-medicines-with-seven-international-partners>

<sup>2426</sup> Government of Canada invests more than \$930,000 to help address harms related to substance use in Sudbury, Ontario, Health Canada (Sudbury) 29 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-invests-more-than-930000-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-sudbury-ontario.html>

<sup>2427</sup> Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island announce drug plan changes coming into effect on June 1, 2023, Health Canada (Charlottetown) 31 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/governments-of-canada-and-prince-edward-island-announce-drug-plan-changes-coming-into-effect-on-june-1-2023.html>

<sup>2428</sup> Canada to become first country in the world to require health warnings on individual cigarettes, Health Canada (Ottawa) 31 May 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/05/canada-to-become-first-country-in-the-world-to-require-health-warnings-on-individual-cigarettes.html>

<sup>2429</sup> Making Advance Care Planning more accessible to persons with disabilities, Health Canada (Ottawa) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/making-advance-care-planning-more-accessible-to-persons-with-disabilities.html>

<sup>2430</sup> Government of Canada take action to disrupt the illegal importation and distribution of precursor chemicals used to make illegal fentanyl, Health Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-disrupt-the-illegal-importation-and-distribution-of-precursor-chemicals-used-to-make-illegal-fentanyl.html>

CAD15 million on growing Canada Health Transfer (CHT) which provides federal support for provincial health initiatives and CAD 2 million on CHT top-up for urgent needs.<sup>2431</sup>

On 9 June 2023, Minister Duclos announced CAD1.8 million in funding over three years to the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program to support the research of Covid-19 related issues for transplant recipients.<sup>2432</sup> This will help increase the number and quality of successful transplants. The project will provide a better understanding of treatment options available to patients, investigates the mental health impacts of Covid-19 develop strategies to improve well-being and evaluates the economic impact and value of emerging and existing therapy options for Covid-19 in transplant patients.

On 14 June 2023, the Government of Canada hosted a Nursing Retention Forum to develop a toolkit with practical strategies to improve the mental health of health authorities to improve nursing retention within their organizations.<sup>2433</sup>

On 19 June 2023, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an update on their efforts in minimizing the health risks associated with wildfire smoke-induced air pollution.<sup>2434</sup> They assisted health jurisdictions in establishing cleaner air spaces by providing technical expertise, public health guidance, and necessary monitoring equipment upon request. Their efforts advances section nine of SDG 3.

On 20 June 2023, Minister Duclos, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Steven Guilbeault and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Marie-Claude Bibeau announced they will evaluate acceptable increases to pesticide residue limits, to ensure a sustainable approach to pesticides management and help famers provide reliable access to safe and nutritious food.<sup>2435</sup>

On 21 June 2023 Minister Bennett announced regulations requiring manufacturers to disclose sales and ingredients used in vaping products to Health Canada.<sup>2436</sup> The regulation provides data assisting in the development of policies and protect people from the health risks of vaping and nicotine addiction.

On 22 June 2023, Minister Bennett announced CAD1.9 million in funding for Pathways to Recovery's Safer Supply Ottawa Program to offer accessible and flexible pathways to medication and recovery for a broader

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<sup>2431</sup> The Government of Canada and Northwest Territories reach agreement in principle to improve health services for Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/the-government-of-canada-and-northwest-territories-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>2432</sup> Government of Canada supports research on COVID-19 treatments for transplant recipients, Health Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-supports-research-on-covid-19-treatments-for-transplant-recipients.html>

<sup>2433</sup> Government of Canada and chief nursing officer hosted the nursing retention forum to address health workforce challenges, Health Canada (Toronto) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-and-chief-nursing-officer-hosted-the-nursing-retention-forum-to-address-health-workforce-challenges.html>

<sup>2434</sup> Public Health Update on the Health Effects of Wildfires, Health Canada (Ottawa) 19 June 2023. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/public-health-update-on-the-health-effects-of-wildfires.html>

<sup>2435</sup> Government of Canada moves forward on commitments to strengthen the pesticide review process, Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-moves-forward-on-commitments-to-strengthen-the-pesticide-review-process.html>

<sup>2436</sup> Government of Canada announced vaping products reporting regulations, Health Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-announces-vaping-products-reporting-regulations.html>

group.<sup>2437</sup> The program also aims to increase access to practitioners, mental health programs, housing supports, peer workers and other support services.

On 29 June 2023, Minister Duclos announced the opening of the second benefit period of the Canada Dental Benefit, to provide eligible families with up front, direct payments of up to under 12 for dental care services \$650 per child.<sup>2438</sup>

On 30 June 2023, Minister Duclos announced that Prince Edward Island will enhance its Catastrophic Drug Program by lowering the cap on household spending to be eligible for medications.<sup>2439</sup> The province has added more income threshold levels and adjusted household income expenditure calculations. After the cap is in effect, households in the program will not have to spend more than 6.5 per cent of their household income on eligible medications, saving them CAD430,000 annually.

On 3 July 2023, Minister Duclos announced over CAD2.5 million over three years to the Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators, funding a project that exchanged information about a nurse's licensing history.<sup>2440</sup> This helps improve registration processes and enable more consistent collection of data.

On 6 July 2023, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut announced an agreement to invest CAD381 million for Canada Health Transfer in the province, including a guaranteed 5 per cent growth to the Canada Health Transfer in the next five years, and CAD2 million top-up to address pediatric hospitals and emergency rooms, and long wait times for surgeries.<sup>2441</sup> The aim is to increase access to healthcare in rural and underserved communities, provide effective, high quality services and access to timely mental health and addiction services.

On 6 July 2023, Minister Bennett and Member of Parliament for West Vancouver Patrick Weiler announced more than CAD20 million in funding for 42 projects across British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program.<sup>2442</sup> The aim is to provide harm reduction and treatment services for people who use drugs and people who are disproportionately affected by substance abuse.

On 6 July 2023, the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon announced an agreement to invest CAD380 million over 10 years in the Yukon to assist with the growth of Canada Health Transfer, address

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<sup>2437</sup> Government of Canada highlights 1.9 million investment to help address harms related to substance use in Ottawa, Ontario, Health Canada (Ottawa) 22 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-highlights-19-million-investment-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-ottawa-ontario.html>

<sup>2438</sup> Second benefit period of the Canada Dental Benefit applications will open July 1, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/second-benefit-period-of-the-canada-dental-benefit-applications-will-open-july-1.html>

<sup>2439</sup> Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island announce drug plan changes coming into effect on July 1, 2023, Health Canada (Charlottetown) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/06/governments-of-canada-and-prince-edward-island-announce-drug-plan-changes-coming-into-effect-on-july-1-2023.html>

<sup>2440</sup> Government of Canada announced support to improve health workforce planning for nurses, and the international council of nurses congress, Health Canada (Montreal) 3 July 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-announces-support-to-improve-health-workforce-planning-for-nurses-at-the-international-council-of-nurses-congress.html>

<sup>2441</sup> The government of Canada and Nunavut reached an agreement in principle to improve health services for Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/the-government-of-canada-and-nunavut-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>2442</sup> Government of Canada announces more than \$20 million to help address harms related to substance use in BC and the Prairies, Health Canada (Squamish) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-announces-more-than-20-million-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-bc-and-the-prairies.html>

urgent needs of patients, provide patients access to their electronic health information, access to timely health services, and access to family health services in rural and underserved communities.<sup>2443</sup>

On 10 July 2023, Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra announced the imposition of fines on drivers or companies who violate the Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations, to promote road safety.<sup>2444</sup> The regulations also outline logging and reporting requirements for commercial vehicle drivers and fleet operators, to further ensure road safety.

On 20 July 2023, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence Lawrence MacAulay announced that an agreement had been reached with Prince Edward Island, which had provided the province CAD5 million in the 2022-2023 year as part of a 10-year investment that started in 2017.<sup>2445</sup> The aim is to improve access to home and community care, as well as mental health and addiction services.

On 21 July 2023, Minister Duclos and Minister of Seniors Kamal Khara announced the launch of an online public consultation, to create a space for long-term care residents and families to provide their experience and expertise on how to improve quality, safety, standards and accountability of long-term care.<sup>2446</sup> This will also include discussions on how federal legislation can support these improvements.

On 21 July 2023, President of the Treasury Board Mona Fortier announced CAD2.5 million for projects led by the First Peoples Wellness Circles (FPWC) to improve mental health support for Indigenous people.<sup>2447</sup> The FPWC aims to provide a framework to support the creation of mental wellness resources and tools, provide culturally inclusive mental health services and evaluation tools for First Nations populations by increasing the number of mental health professionals in New Brunswick.

On 9 August 2023, Minister of Health Mark Holland announced more than CAD4.3 million to fund the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) to fund support projects that develop culturally safe and inclusive educational materials that improve access to SRH services and remove barriers for Indigenous and marginalized communities.<sup>2448</sup>

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<sup>2443</sup> The Government of Canada and the Yukon reach agreement in principle to improve health services for Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/the-government-of-canada-and-nunavut-reach-agreement-in-principle-to-improve-health-services-for-canadians.html>

<sup>2444</sup> Government of Canada announces new measures to improve commercial vehicle safety, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 10 July 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-announces-new-measures-to-improve-commercial-vehicle-safety.html>

<sup>2445</sup> Government of Canada invests over CAD 5 million to support home and community care, Mental Health and Addiction Services in Prince Edward Island, Health Canada (Souris) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-invests-over-5-million-to-support-home-and-community-care-mental-health-and-addictions-services-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>2446</sup> Government of Canada launches online consultation for the Safe Long Term Care Act, Health Canada (Ottawa) 21 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-launches-online-consultation-for-the-safe-long-term-care-act.html>

<sup>2447</sup> Government of Canada announces \$2.5 million for Projects to improve mental health supports for indigenous peoples, Health Canada (North Bay) 21 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-announces-25-million-for-projects-to-improve-mental-health-supports-for-indigenous-peoples.html>

<sup>2448</sup> Government of Canada strengthens access to sexual and reproductive health services for indigenous communities, Health Canada (Vancouver) August 9, 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/08/government-of-canada-strengthens-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-services-for-indigenous-communities.html>

On 9 August 2023, Member of Parliament Lapointe and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Ya'ara Saks announced more than CAD237,000 to continue supporting projects with Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program aimed at increasing access to services for people who use drugs while reducing stigma.<sup>2449</sup>

On 16 August 2023, Minister Holland and Minister McLane announced that Prince Edward Island residents have saved over CAD675,000 on out-of-pocket costs as a result of previous efforts to lower the annual cap on household spending on medications and a reduction in co-p payments.<sup>2450</sup>

On 29 August 2023, Minister Saks announced more than CAD81,000 to fund a not-for-profit community organization that aims to support black francophone young women and mothers of African origin living in Scarborough by giving them the knowledge and tools needed to reduce harms and risks associated with substance abuse.<sup>2451</sup>

On 7 September 2023, Minister Holland announced almost CAD1.3 million in funding for projects aimed at improving access to vital Sexual and Reproductive Health services and reduce barriers to care for these underserved communities across the Prairies and beyond.<sup>2452</sup> This will be done through healthcare provider training, SRH awareness campaigns, and culturally relevant tools and resources.

On 7 September 2023, the Government of Canada launched a public consultation to inform the second legislative review of the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act.<sup>2453</sup> The review is guided by papers surrounding the issue of tobacco and vaping, and by health professionals, public health advocates and Indigenous people. The review aims to help improve the Government's understanding of the vaping product market and provide a baseline assessment of the Act and track progress towards reducing tobacco use in Canada.

On 11 September 2023, Minister Saks announced more than CAD1.8 million in funding towards the Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program, to increase access to services for drug users, people at risk of experiencing substance-related harms, and issues related to homelessness.<sup>2454</sup>

On 22 September 2023, Global Affairs Canada committed CAD4 million to a University of Montreal lead One Health empowerment project for disadvantaged women and girls in Burkina Faso and Senegal.<sup>2455</sup> The project

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<sup>2449</sup> Government of Canada announces over \$237,000 to help address harms related to substance use in Sudbury, Ontario, Health Canada (Sudbury) 9 August 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/08/government-of-canada-announces-over-237000-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-sudbury-ontario.html>

<sup>2450</sup> Improving affordability and accessibility of medications in Prince Edward Island, Health Canada (Charlottetown) 16 August 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/08/improving-affordability-and-accessibility-of-medications-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>2451</sup> Government of Canada announces more than \$81,000 investment to help address harms related to substance use in Scarborough, Ontario, Health Canada (Scarborough) 29 August 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/08/government-of-canada-announces-more-than-81000-investment-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-scarborough-ontario.html>

<sup>2452</sup> Government of Canada improves access to sexual and reproductive health, Health Canada (Edmonton) 7 September 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-improves-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health.html>

<sup>2453</sup> Government of Canada seeks input to further reduce tobacco use, Health Canada (Ottawa) 7 September 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-seeks-input-to-further-reduce-tobacco-use.html>

<sup>2454</sup> Government of Canada announces more than \$1.8 million investment to help address harms related to substance abuse in Hamilton, Ontario, Health Canada (Hamilton). 11 September 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-announces-more-than-18-million-investment-to-help-address-harms-related-to-substance-use-in-hamilton-ontario.html>

<sup>2455</sup> Project profile — Empowering women and girls in the fight against zoonotic diseases, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://w05.internhttps://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P011368001ational.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P011368001>

plans to teach improved screening for and diagnosis of zoonotic diseases, and support community-based management of zoonotic diseases. The project advances section three of SDG 3.

On 29 September 2023, the Government of Canada published proposed amendments to Canada's Cross-Border Movement of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations to control transboundary movements of e-waste to all countries to comply with the Basel Ban.<sup>2456</sup> This intends to ensure that countries that do not want, or that do not have the necessary infrastructure to deal with e-waste do not face the burden of dealing with them, reducing harm to global environmental and human health.

On 29 September 2023, Minister Saks announced the launch of the 2023 national call for proposals for Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program to increase access to services for drug users and for people at risk of experiencing substance-related harms.<sup>2457</sup>

On 1 October 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an investment of CAD196.1 billion over 10 years to improve health care services for Canadians to address unique needs in four shared health priorities, including access to quality mental health and substance use services.<sup>2458</sup>

On 1 October 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau declared that dental costs for seniors would be lowered through the Canadian Dental Care Plan.<sup>2459</sup> He also announced the Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement to make life more affordable for seniors.

On 6 October 2023, Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez announced the enforcement of regulations allowing Transport Canada to fine people who violate the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, namely, importing vehicles seats, or tires that don't meet Canadian safety standards; companies refusing to recall products after finding safety defects; and manufacturers failing to adequately test their products for safety standards. These regulations will aim to improve road safety.<sup>2460</sup>

On 10 October 2023, the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia announced a bilateral agreement funding CAD1.2 billion over the next three years.<sup>2461</sup> The action plan aims to develop an innovative model of care at 83 acute care sites throughout British Columbia, introducing additional recruitment and retention initiatives, improving access to family care, recuing backlogs, enhancing youth services of treatment and recovery for addictions and mental health, increasing percentage of people in the province who can access health information electronically, up to 75 per cent.

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<sup>2456</sup> The Government of Canada takes the next step to better protect the environment and human health from all hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable material, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 29 September 2022. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/the-government-of-canada-takes-the-next-step-to-better-protect-the-environment-and-human-health-from-all-hazardous-waste-and-hazardous-recyclable-m.html>

<sup>2457</sup> Health Canada launches national call for proposals for the substance use and addictions program, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/09/health-canada-launches-national-call-for-proposals-for-the-substance-use-and-addictions-program.html>

<sup>2458</sup> Public Service Health Care Plan summary, Treasury Board Secretariat (Ottawa) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/benefit-plans/health-care-plan/public-service-health-care-plan-glance.html>

<sup>2459</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on National Seniors Day, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 1 October 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2023/10/01/statement-prime-minister-national-seniors-day>

<sup>2460</sup> Minister of Transport announces new penalties for companies or individuals who violate the motor vehicle safety act (Ottawa) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2023/10/minister-of-transport-announces-new-penalties-for-companies-or-individuals-who-violate-the-motor-vehicle-safety-act.html>

<sup>2461</sup> Canada signs \$1.2 billion bilateral agreement with British Columbia to improve health care over three years, Health Canada (Vancouver) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/10/canada-signs-12-billion-bilateral-agreement-with-british-columbia-to-improve-health-care-over-three-years.html>

On 11 October 2023, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault announced CAD4.4 million in funding through the Environmental Damages Fund to support projects in the province of Quebec that will help reduce transportation-related air pollution.<sup>2462</sup> This aims to support projects that reduce transportation-related air pollution by improving urban mobility. By doing so, it helps Canada move closer to net-zero emission goals and create a safer environment for the community.

On 20 October 2023, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) invested CAD26.6 million to support research and knowledge translation to address high priority health care challenges in Canada.<sup>2463</sup> The research teams aim to utilize digital solutions to enhance healthcare in rural and remote areas, address sexual health services in pharmacies, enhance care coordination for individuals with long Covid and chronic pain, and promote mental health in equity deserving communities. The investment advances sections four, seven and eight of SDG 3.

On 30 October 2023, Health Canada launched a renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy as a ‘compassionate approach’ towards healthcare and public safety.<sup>2464</sup> They committed to provide funding to communities to build their capacity to support data-driven community-led approaches to prevent and delay substance use in youth. This will be done by launching a Harm Reduction Fund providing funding to projects across Canada that help reduce HIV and hepatitis C among people who share injection and inhalation drug-use equipment, creating a mental Wellness Program to support First Nations and Inuit access to mental wellness services, and launching the Drug Stigma Awareness Training for the law enforcement community to help support frontline officers in their interactions with people who use substances.

On 30 October 2023, Minister Saks announced more than CAD21 million in federal funding for 52 projects through Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program as part of the renewed Canada Drugs and Substances Strategy.<sup>2465</sup>

On 6 November 2023, Health Canada released a statement to recognize National Pain Awareness Week in order to promote awareness for chronic pain, a noncommunicable disease.<sup>2466</sup>

On 15 November 2023, Minister Holland announced over CAD700,000 in funding from the Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund towards projects from the Sexual Health Nova Scotia Society and the Association of New Canadians in order to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services in Atlantic Canada.<sup>2467</sup>

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<sup>2462</sup> Nearly \$4.4 million available for projects in Quebec that will reduce air pollution from transportation by improving urban mobility, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 11 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/nearly-44-million-available-for-projects-in-quebec-that-will-reduce-air-pollution-from-transportation-by-improving-urban-mobility.html>

<sup>2463</sup> Government of Canada and partners invest more than \$26 million to advance integrated health care in Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Toronto) 20 October 2023. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-and-partners-invest-more-than-26-million-to-advance-integrated-health-care-in-canada.html>

<sup>2464</sup> The Canadian Drugs + Substances Strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) October 30, 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-drugs-substances-strategy-approach-related-harms-overdose-crisis/cdss-report-eng.pdf>

<sup>2465</sup> Health Canada announces more than 21 million to support community-based organization who are helping address harms related to substance abuse, Health Canada (Toronto) October 30, 2023. Access Date: 11 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/10/health-canada-announces-more-than-21-million-to-support-community-based-organization-who-are-helping-address-harms-related-to-substance-use.html>

<sup>2466</sup> Message from the Minister of Health and Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – National Pain Awareness Week, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 November 2023. Access Date: 22 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/11/message-from-the-minister-of-health-and-mental-health-and-addictions-and-associate-minister-of-health--national-pain-awareness-week.html>

<sup>2467</sup> Government of Canada Improves Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Health Canada (Halifax) 15 November 2023. Access Date: 22 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/11/government-of-canada-improves-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-services.html>



On 16 November 2023, Health Canada released a statement to recognize Lung Cancer Awareness Month in order to raise awareness regarding lung cancer and prevention methods.<sup>2468</sup>

On 20 November 2023, Health Canada released a statement recognizing National Addictions Awareness Week to promote education about substance abuse and to provide support to those suffering from addiction.<sup>2469</sup> This includes the release of the renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy, a plan for Canada to deal with the overdose crisis and other issues surrounding substance use.

On 21 November 2023, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland announced the first details of the Canadian Dental Health Care Plan as part of the Fall 2023 Economic Statement; the plan will support up to nine million uninsured Canadians with net family incomes under CAD90,000 to secure the oral health care that they need as part of Canada's universal public health system.<sup>2470</sup> This helps meet SDG to expand access to universal health care and to provide financial risk protection. For families with net income under CAD70,000, there will be no co-payments. The plan builds on the foundation of the Canada Dental Benefit rolled out in 2022 to provide CAD1300 in direct upfront tax-free payments over two years to parents or guardians of children under 18 to cover dental care. Health Canada will release the phase in and implementation roll-out details before the end of 2023.

On 16 January 2024, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAuley and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew announced a joint CAD450,000 investment over 3 years for targeted mental health programs for farmers.<sup>2471</sup> These mental health improvements address section four of SDG 3.

On 22 January 2024, Minister Guilbeault and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Special Advisor for Water Terry Duguid launched the Canada Water Agency backed by CAD650 million to improve water quality.<sup>2472</sup> The new agency addresses section nine of SDG 3.

On 23 January 2024, Minister MacAuley and Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Elvis Loveless announced CAD72,500 for the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture to support mental health for farmers.<sup>2473</sup>

On 25 January 2024, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Sean Fraser announced a jointly government funded public awareness campaign through the Canadian Automobile Association about the

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<sup>2468</sup> Statement from the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health & Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Health Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 22 December 2023.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/11/statement-from-the-minister-of-health-and-the-minister-of-mental-health--addictions-and-associate-minister-of-health--lung-cancer-awareness-month.html>

<sup>2469</sup> Message from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – National Addictions Awareness Week, Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2023. Access Date: 22 December 2023.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/11/message-from-the-minister-of-mental-health-and-addictions-and-associate-minister-of-health--national-addictions-awareness-week.html>

<sup>2470</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Freeland Announces Fall 2023 Economic Statement, Ministry of Finance (Ottawa) 21 November 2023. Access Date: 11 December 2023. <https://www.budget.canada.ca/fes-eea/2023/report-rapport/FES-EEA-2023-en.pdf>

<sup>2471</sup> Government of Canada invest \$450,000 in mental health and wellness in the Manitoba agricultural sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Brandon) 16 January 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/01/governments-invest-450000-in-mental-health-and-wellness-in-the-manitoba-agriculture-sector.html>

<sup>2472</sup> Federal Government opens the door to projects that help keep Canadian fresh water clean and healthy, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 22 January 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/01/federal-government-opens-the-door-to-projects-that-help-keep-canadian-fresh-water-clean-and-healthy.html>

<sup>2473</sup> Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership investing in farmers' mental health, wellness and safety, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (St. John's) 23 January 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/01/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership-investing-in-farmers-mental-health-wellness-and-safety.html>

benefits of active transportation.<sup>2474</sup> The CAD85,000 campaign focuses on safely sharing the road between motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and other users. The safety initiative aims to reduce traffic accident injuries in line with section six of SDG 3.

On 31 January 2024, Minister Holland, Minister Duclos, Minister Bibeau, Minister of Labour and Senior Seamus O'Regan and Minister of Citizens' Services Terry Beech expanded the Canadian Dental Care Plan to cover seniors aged 72 to 76.<sup>2475</sup>

On 2 February 2024, the Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario Filomena Tassi and Members of Parliament Chad Collins and Lisa Hepfner announced an investment of over CAD3.5 million towards the growth of Fero International Inc., which provides modular solutions for the healthcare sector.<sup>2476</sup> The modular infrastructure can act as various forms of clinics and the extra facilities expand UHC access.

On 8 February 2024, Ministers Holland, Duclos and Beech announced the services covered under the Canadian Dental Care Plan.<sup>2477</sup> The Plan covers a range of oral health care including examinations and x-rays, polishing, fillings, root canal treatments, extractions and complete dentures among others.<sup>2478</sup>

On 9 February 2024, Prime Minister Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced a new CAD3.1 billion healthcare agreement.<sup>2479</sup> The agreement aims to promote health care worker hiring, reduce wait times, and increase family doctor access. The funding adds five Youth Wellness Hubs which increase rural, remote, and indigenous communities' access to mental health and substance use services. The agreement also reduces regulatory barriers for foreign-credentialed health workers to practice in Ontario. The agreement addresses sections four, five, and eight of SDG 3.

On 13 February 2024, Ministers Holland and Saks announced two agreements with the Northwest Territories to invest more than CAD36 million for improved health care access and services.<sup>2480</sup> This investment will include CAD24 million to support the Northwest Territories' three-year action plan. The plan prioritizes coordination and access to primary care. It provides resources to support recruitment, retention, and training initiatives for health workers, adds addiction services and specialized care, and targets culturally appropriate

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<sup>2474</sup> CAA Drives Change: Campaign for safer roads and healthier communities, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 25 January 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2024/01/caa-drives-change-campaign-for-safer-roads-and-healthier-communities.html>

<sup>2475</sup> More than 400,000 Canadian seniors have been approved for dental care under the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2024/01/more-than-40-0000-jd1-canadian-seniors-have-been-approved-for-dental-care-under-the-canadian-dental-care-plan.html>

<sup>2476</sup> Government of Canada supports affordable infrastructure for the healthcare industry, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (Stoney Creek) 2 February 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-supports-affordable-infrastructure-for-the-healthcare-industry.html>

<sup>2477</sup> Government of Canada announces the services covered under the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Health Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-the-services-covered-under-the-canadian-dental-care-plan.html>

<sup>2478</sup> What services are covered, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 5 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/coverage.html>

<sup>2479</sup> Cutting wait times, delivering better health care in Ontario, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Greater Toronto Area) 9 February 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2024/02/09/cutting-wait-times-delivering-better-health-care>

<sup>2480</sup> Government of Canada signs two bilateral agreements with Northwest Territories to improve health care, Health Canada (Yellowknife) 13 February 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-signs-two-bilateral-agreements-with-the-northwest-territories-to-improve-health-care.html>

mental wellness and suicide prevention programming. The agreement addresses sections four, five, and eight of SDG 3.

On 15 February 2024, Prime Minister Trudeau, and Premier Kinew, announced over CAD633 million in funding to improve health care in Manitoba.<sup>2481</sup> This includes CAD434 million to support Manitoba's three-year action plan to address staffing shortages and expand primary care options to families. The plan calls for additional psychologists and the doubling of hospital spaces for those experiencing homelessness.

On 23 February 2024, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health Yasir Naqvi announced more than CAD12.6 million for 16 projects targeting HIV, and hepatitis C among other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections in British Columbia.<sup>2482</sup> The funding will be allocated through the HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund, the Harm Reduction Fund, and Positive Living North.

On 23 February 2024, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada announced draft regulations to prevent smog-causing volatile organic compounds from the petroleum sector.<sup>2483</sup> The regulations aim to reduce the presence of compounds that contribute to cancer and respiratory diseases, thereby addressing sections four and nine of SDG 3.

On 27 February 2024, Ministers Holland and Saks unveiled Canada's sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections action plan 2024-2030.<sup>2484</sup> The announcement includes CAD2.45 million in funding to address sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections in Canada.

On 28 February 2024, Minister Holland provided CAD20 million over five years to launch RareKids-CAN: Pediatric Rare Disease Clinical Trials and Treatment Network.<sup>2485</sup> The network aims to reduce premature deaths from non-communicable diseases amongst youth and advances sections two and four of SDG 3.

On 29 February 2024, Minister Holland introduced Bill C-64, An act respecting Pharmacare. The legislation outlines the framework for national universal pharmacare's preliminary rollout.<sup>2486</sup> This first phase includes the intent to pursue contraception and diabetes coverage in line with UHC. Expanded access to contraceptives also contributes to section seven of SDG 3.

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<sup>2481</sup> More doctors, more nurses, shorter wait times in Manitoba, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Winnipeg) 15 February 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2024/02/15/more-doctors-more-nurses-shorter-wait-times-manitoba>

<sup>2482</sup> Government of Canada supports community based projects addressing HIV, Hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections, Public Health Agency of Canada (Surrey) 23 February 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-supports-community-based-projects-addressing-hiv-hepatitis-c-and-other-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections0.html>

<sup>2483</sup> Government of Canada announces draft rules to cut pollutants that cause smog in communities across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-draft-rules-to-cut-pollutants-that-cause-smog-in-communities-across-canada.html>

<sup>2484</sup> Government of Canada releases 2024-2030 Action Plan on sexually transmitted and blood borne infections, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-releases-2024-2030-action-plan-on-sexually-transmitted-and-blood-borne-infections.html>

<sup>2485</sup> Government of Canada invests \$20 million to improve health outcomes of children living with rare diseases, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 28 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-invests-20-million-to-improve-health-outcomes-of-children-living-with-rare-diseases.html>

<sup>2486</sup> Government of Canada introduces legislation for first phase of national universal Pharmacare, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-for-first-phase-of-national-universal-pharmacar.html>

On 1 March 2024, Minister Saks announced over CAD3.5 million to 19 distress and crisis centres to help build their capacity.<sup>2487</sup> The expansion of mental health access addresses section four of SDG 3.

On 16 April 2024, the Canadian government presented the 2024 Budget.<sup>2488</sup> The bill improves UHC access by allocating CAD1.5 billion for the national pharmacare program covering diabetes and contraception medications. Spending also includes CAD3.2 million for secure pharmaceutical supply and CAD77.1 million to bring foreign-trained doctors into the health workforce to improve access to care. The budget addresses section four of SDG 3 through a CAD500 million investment in youth mental health supports.

On 30 April 2024, Health Canada announced up to CAD1 million in over three years to Roger Neilson Children's Hospice for their project to enhance access to pediatric palliative care across Canada.<sup>2489</sup> This funding will help focus on the needs of children and youth diagnosed with serious illnesses.

On 1 May 2024, Health Canada announced that the first one million seniors who successfully applied to the Canadian Dental Care Plan and have a May coverage start date in their welcome package, can now receive the dental care they need.<sup>2490</sup>

On 3 May 2024, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen and members of Canada's Lebanese community in Montréal announced CAD27 million in humanitarian assistance funding.<sup>2491</sup> The humanitarian assistance will help provide food assistance, safe water and sanitation services and basic health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.

On 6 May 2024, Health Canada announced CAD2.38 million in funding over four years to Lakehead University for their project: Improving Access and Facilitating Systems Change for Palliative Care Among Underserved Populations.<sup>2492</sup> Palliative care improves the quality of life and comfort of seriously ill patients and their families, advancing section eight and C of SDG3.

On 6 May 2024, Minister MacAulay announced up to CAD1.08 million for the Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing to support the mental health of Canadian farmers.<sup>2493</sup> This includes supports for mental health literacy education, the development of a mental health toolkit in case of catastrophic events, facilitate the sharing and expansion of national farm mental health strategies and resources.

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<sup>2487</sup> Enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion within Canada's crisis and distress line sector, Public Health Agency of Canada (Toronto) 1 March 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2024/02/enhancing-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-within-canadas-crisis-and-distress-line-sector.html>

<sup>2488</sup> Budget 2024 Fairness for Every Generation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://budget.canada.ca/2024/home-accueil-en.html#pdf>

<sup>2489</sup> Government of Canada Supports Roger Neilson Children's Hospice's Project: Enhancing Access to Pediatric Palliative Care, Health Canada (Ottawa) 30 April 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/04/government-of-canada-supports-roger-neilson-childrens-hospices-project-enhancing-access-to-pediatric-palliative-care.html>

<sup>2490</sup> 1 million seniors can now access services under the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Health Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/05/1-million-seniors-can-now-access-services-under-the-canadian-dental-care-plan.html>

<sup>2491</sup> Canada announces \$65 million in humanitarian and development assistance funding for Lebanon, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/05/canada-announces-65-million-in-humanitarian-and-development-assistance-funding-for-lebanon.html>

<sup>2492</sup> Government of Canada Supports Lakehead University's project to assist underserved populations in receiving palliative care services, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/05/government-of-canada-supports-lakehead-universitys-project-to-assist-underserved-populations-in-receiving-palliative-care-services.html>

<sup>2493</sup> Minister MacAulay announces new investment in mental health support for producers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 6 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/05/minister-macaulay-announces-new-investment-in-mental-health-support-for-producers.html>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. Canada has taken numerous actions towards UHC, including improving access to healthcare services and the affordability of prescription medication. Canada has also acted on several targets of SDG 3, including preventing road traffic injuries, providing universal health coverage, providing universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, addressing the harms of narcotics and illegal substances, taking action on noncommunicable diseases like cancer and mental health, combatting environmental health hazards, improving research on medication and treatment, preparing for national and global health risks, and reducing childhood mortality. Canada has, therefore, taken action on eight SDG 3 targets.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Advika Gudi*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 22 May 2023, Ministry of the Interior and Overseas launched Road Safety Days at Work and called on employers to join the National Employers' Appeal for Road Safety.<sup>2494</sup> The ministry's action contributes to reducing road deaths and promotes section six of SDG 3.

On 5 June 2023, Ministry of Health and Prevention launched Sexual Health Week to promote access to information about prevention of sexually transmitted infections and methods of contraception.<sup>2495</sup> The initiative furthers section seven of SDG 3.

On 6 June 2023, the Crisis and Support Centre transported water-purification units to Ukraine in the aftermath of the Kakhovka dam destruction.<sup>2496</sup> The stations reduced contaminated water consumption and helped achieve section nine of SDG 3.

On 13 June 2023, Minister Delegate for Territorial Organization and Health Professions Agnès Firmin Le Bodo announced a strategy to improve UHC access in overseas territories.<sup>2497</sup> The strategy focuses on multi-professional health facilities (MSPs) that resulted in more patient appointments and medical assistant employment. The plan includes EUR50 million for facility construction. The government aims to build 4,000 MSPs by 2027.

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<sup>2494</sup> Participez aux journées de la sécurité routière au travail du 22 au 26 mai 2023, Ministère de l'Intérieur et des Outre-Mers (Paris) 29 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/participez-aux-journees-de-securite-routiere-au-travail-du-22-au>

<sup>2495</sup> Deuxième édition de la Semaine de la santé sexuelle du 5 au 11 juin, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 5 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/deuxieme-edition-de-la-semaine-de-la-sante-sexuelle-du-5-au-11-juin>

<sup>2496</sup> Aide humanitaire à l'Ukraine, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/action-humanitaire-d-urgence/aide-humanitaire-a-l-ukraine/article/aide-humanitaire-a-l-ukraine>

<sup>2497</sup> Accès aux soins dans les territoires : Agnès Firmin Le Bodo a annoncé le plan d'action pour atteindre 4000 maisons de santé pluriprofessionnelles d'ici 2027, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/acces-aux-soins-dans-les-territoires-agnes-firmin-le-bodo-a-annonce-le-plan-d>

On 13 June 2023, Minister of Health and Prevention François Braun released a list of essential drugs to help manage their shortages.<sup>2498</sup> The list aims to ensure access to safe, affordable, and effective medicines and advances section eight of SDG 3.

On 13 June 2023, President Emmanuel Macron announced a strategy for domestic medicine manufacturing.<sup>2499</sup> The strategy launches eight projects with EUR160 million in government funding.<sup>2500</sup> The strategy aims to ensure access to safe, affordable, and effective medicines and advances section eight of SDG 3.

On 16 June 2023, Minister Braun announced broader dental coverage to promote preventative care and expand UHC.<sup>2501</sup> The government will increase its share of copayments for dental care from 30 to 40 per cent and plans to negotiate full contributions for certain services with providers later in the year.

On 13 July 2023, Minister Delage Le Bodo announced further actions to expand UHC access in overseas territories.<sup>2502</sup> The new plan allocates EUR65 million to increase the medical assistant workforce from 4,000 to 10,000. To cover rural areas, the strategy deploys 100 medical busses backed by EUR10 million in subsidies for health professionals to reach patients. The plan also calls for better healthcare coordination under the Territorial Health Professional Communities framework.

On 27 July 2023, the National Union of Health Insurance Funds signed a memorandum of understanding with doctors and representatives for the research sector.<sup>2503</sup> The memorandum outlines a sectoral economic trajectory and budget increase for 2024-2026. The agreement also outlines a new EUR150 million innovation fund and authorizes direct access to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing. The prevention and innovation efforts for communicable diseases address section four of SDG 3.

On 8 August 2023, Ministry of Health and Prevention released a preliminary 2023-2033 National Health Strategy and opened a public consultation on its contents.<sup>2504</sup> The new strategy aims to bolster and expand France's UHC system.<sup>2505</sup> The updated Strategy furthers section one and two of SDG 3 through provisions for maternal and infant health. The strategy outlines a plan for greater HIV testing, cancer care and testing,

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<sup>2498</sup> Gestion des pénuries : publication de la liste des médicaments essentiels pour répondre aux besoins prioritaires des Français, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/gestion-des-penuries-publication-de-la-liste-des-medicaments-essentiels-pour>

<sup>2499</sup> Relocalisations de médicaments essentiels, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/dossiers-de-presse/article/relocalisations-de-medicaments-essentiels>

<sup>2500</sup> Relocalisations de médicaments essentiels, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. [https://sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/dossier\\_de\\_presse\\_-\\_relocalisations\\_de\\_medicaments\\_essentiels.pdf](https://sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/dossier_de_presse_-_relocalisations_de_medicaments_essentiels.pdf)

<sup>2501</sup> Le Gouvernement amplifie son action en faveur du renforcement de la prévention dans notre système de santé avec des actions fortes en faveur des soins bucco-dentaires, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 16 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-gouvernement-amplifie-son-action-en-faveur-du-renforcement-de-la-prevention>

<sup>2502</sup> Plan d'action pour améliorer l'accès aux soins dans les territoires, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 13 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/plan-d-action-pour-ameliorer-l-acces-aux-soins-dans-les-territoires>

<sup>2503</sup> Signature d'un nouveau protocole d'accord fixant le cadre d'évolution des tarifs pour 2024 à 2026, l'Assurance Maladie (Paris) 28 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://www.ameli.fr/laboratoire-d-analyses-medicales/actualites/signature-d-un-nouveau-protocole-d-accord-fixant-le-cadre-d-evolution-des-tarifs-pour-2024-2026>

<sup>2504</sup> Stratégie nationale de santé 2023-2033 : ouverture d'une consultation publique en ligne, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 8 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/strategie-nationale-de-sante-2023-2033-ouverture-d-une-consultation-publique-en>

<sup>2505</sup> Stratégie nationale de santé 2023 – 2033, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) n.d.. Access Date: 19 December 2023. [https://sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/projet\\_sns.pdf](https://sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/projet_sns.pdf)

addiction prevention, sexual health integration, air quality improvements, research and innovation investments, and crisis capacity building in line with SDG 3's sections three, four, five, seven, nine, A, and D.

On 29 August 2023, Ministry of Health and Prevention released a report on the financing and regulation of health products.<sup>2506</sup> The report recommends pathways to promote access to care and medicines to inform the Social Security Financing Bill. The report aims to enhance UHC access and supports section eight of SDG 3.

On 1 September 2023, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne proposed announced policy changes aimed at expanding access to UHC.<sup>2507</sup> The changes include incentives for health staff to work nights and weekends by increasing payment premiums to 25 percent and 20 percent respectively. As well, Prime Minister Borne proposed to expand the prescription purview of pharmacists to include angina and cystitis. These policy changes advance section four of SDG 3.

On 27 September 2023, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Collona announced EUR7 million in humanitarian aid for Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The aid includes emergency medical equipment and medicines, including for children.<sup>2508</sup> The aid expands access to pharmaceuticals and decreases under-five mortality rate to advance sections eight and two of SDG 3.

On 27 September 2023, Prime Minister Borne, Minister of Economics, Finance and Digital and Industrial Sovereignty, Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Health and Prevention Aurelien Rousseau and Minister Delegate for Public Accounts Thomas Cazenave introduced the Social Security Financing Bill to the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly.<sup>2509</sup> In terms of prescriptions, the bill allows Minister Rousseau to manage prescriptions during supply shortages, allows pharmacists to prescribe medications for simple infections such as tonsillitis and cystitis, and allows patients with a sore throat or burning urination go directly to pharmacists. These changes will alleviate the stress on the primary health care system.

On 27 September 2023, the introduced Social Security Financing Bill addresses healthcare in terms of preventive care. The bill outlines that preventive health appointments will be provided at ages 25, 45, and 65 to strengthen the mental and physical health of adults and to prevent and manage chronic diseases and conditions. These changes will advance section four of SDG 3.

On 27 September 2023, the introduced Social Security Financing Bill also provides for reimbursement for the costs of reusable menstrual protection for insured persons under the age of 26 and for beneficiaries of complementary solidarity health insurance with no age limit. In addition, the bill legislates the full coverage for condoms. The bill establishes to assess all six-year-olds for physical and mental health and to follow assessment with diagnosis and treatment pathways as required. These measures align with SDG 3's section seven, universal reproductive health, as well as universal health coverage, financial risk protection and affordable and accessible medicines outlined in section eight.

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<sup>2506</sup> POUR UN « NEW DEAL » GARANTISSANT UN ACCES EGAL ET DURABLE DES PATIENTS A TOUS LES PRODUITS DE SANTE, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 29 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/rapport-de-la-mission-financement-et-regulation-des-produits-de-sante>

<sup>2507</sup> La Première ministre, Élisabeth BORNE, en déplacement au CHU de Rouen annonce des mesures pour l'amélioration de l'accès aux soins et des conditions de travail des acteurs de la santé, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Rouen) 1 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023.

<sup>2508</sup> Haut-Karabakh - La France mobilise une aide supplémentaire (27 septembre 2023) Ministère de L'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 27 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/azerbaïdjan/evenements/article/haut-karabakh-la-france-mobilise-une-aide-supplementaire-27-09-23>

<sup>2509</sup> Projet de Loi de financement de la sécurité sociale No. 1682, Assemblée Nationale (Paris) 27 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 December 2023. [https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/16/textes/116b1682\\_projet-loi](https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/16/textes/116b1682_projet-loi)

On 27 September 2023, Minister Le Maire and Minister Delegate Cazenave introduced the 2024 Budget Bill to the Council of Ministers and National Assembly.<sup>2510</sup> The budget proposes to improve access to health care by funding the 13 July 2023 announcement of “Practical Solutions for Health Care Access at the Local Level.” The budget provides EUR906 million for vaccine donations to developing countries. The bill includes provisions to prevent soil pollution, expand compulsory visits and screening for elementary students, including those under five, increase prescription drug coverage rate for those living with disabilities, increase the number of clinical trials, reduce smoking prevalence, cover flu vaccines, expand cancer screenings, sanitize drinking water, and combat drug addiction. As a result, the budget addresses sections two, three, four, five, eight, nine, and B of SDG 3.

On 27 September 2023, Minister Rousseau instructed regional health agencies, and the National Health Insurance Fund to implement the National Strategy to Combat Endometriosis and harmonize guiding principles.<sup>2511</sup> The strategy’s implementation seeks to incorporate endometriosis care into UHC and progresses section seven of SDG 3 with its focus on sexual and reproductive health.

On 16 October 2023, Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion Barbara Pompili launched an information campaign on air quality, transportation, and health.<sup>2512</sup> The campaign aims to reduce air pollution and promotes section nine of SDG 3.

On 26 October 2023, the Crisis and Support Center delivered supplies to Palestinian civilians in Gaza including medicines and water purification tablets.<sup>2513</sup> The delivery increases drug access in line with section eight of SDG 3 and prevents contaminated water consumption and the spread of water-borne diseases in Gaza, such as cholera.<sup>2514</sup>

On 4 November 2023, the National Assembly passed the 2024 Social Security Financing Bill.<sup>2515</sup>

On 9 November 2023, the National Assembly passed the 2024 Budget Bill.<sup>2516</sup>

On 9 November 2023, President Emmanuel Macron organized and held the International Humanitarian Conference for the Civilian Population in Gaza and pledged EUR100 million in aid.<sup>2517</sup> The funds include

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<sup>2510</sup> Projet de Loi de Finances No. 1680, Assemblée Nationale. (Paris) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023.

[https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/16/textes/l16b1680\\_projet-loi](https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/16/textes/l16b1680_projet-loi)

<sup>2511</sup> Deuxième Comité de pilotage de la Stratégie nationale de lutte contre l’endométriose, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 6 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023.

<https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/deuxieme-comite-de-pilotage-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-lutte-contre-l>

<sup>2512</sup> Qualité de l’air : le Gouvernement accélère les principales politiques publiques pour lutter contre les pollutions atmosphériques, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires Ministère de la transition énergétique (Paris) 16 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023.

<sup>2513</sup> Territoires palestiniens – Envoi d’aide humanitaire d’urgence par la France (26 octobre 2023) Ministère de L’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 26 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/israel-territoires-palestiniens/actualites-et-evenements/2023/article/territoires-palestiniens-envoi-d-aide-humanitaire-d-urgence-par-la-france-26-10>

<sup>2514</sup> WHO leads very high-risk joint humanitarian mission to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, World Health Organization (Geneva) 18 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/18-11-2023-who-leads-very-high-risk-joint-humanitarian-mission-to-al-shifa-hospital-in-gaza>

<sup>2515</sup> Financement de la sécurité sociale pour 2024, Sénat (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.senat.fr/dossier-legislatif/plfss2024.html>

<sup>2516</sup> Budget 2024, Sénat (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.senat.fr/dossier-legislatif/pjlf2024.html>

<sup>2517</sup> Territoires palestiniens - Aide humanitaire d’urgence supplémentaire déployée par la France (19 novembre 2023) Ministère de L’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 19 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/israel-territoires-palestiniens/actualites-et-evenements/2023/article/territoires-palestiniens-aide-humanitaire-d-urgence-supplementaire-deployee-par>



health supports that expand access and a particular focus on women and children. The expansion of health access and aim to address children's health and nutrition needs address sections two and eight of SDG 3.

On 18 November 2023, Minister Delegate Le Bodo unveiled a ten-year strategy to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).<sup>2518</sup> The strategy focuses on education, research, and monitoring. The document aims to optimize use of existing drugs and develop new methods to combat AMR. Minister Le Bodo also announced that a French group will assist vulnerable countries in the fight against AMR. The strategy bolsters capacity to manage health threats and addresses section d of SDG 3.

On 20 November 2023, France delivered medicines and medical equipment to treat 1,000 Palestinian civilians, increasing access to care.<sup>2519</sup>

On 28 November 2023, Minister Rousseau announced the new National Tobacco Control Program 2023-2027.<sup>2520</sup> The program proposes measures to reduce smoking accessibility by including an increase in tobacco prices, limits on flavoured products, and a ban on disposable e-cigarette sales. The plan also outlines support for those quitting smoking to assist with withdrawal symptoms, and for industry workers to reduce the number of incomes dependent on the tobacco. The program strengthens implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization (WHO), advancing section a of SDG 3.

On 1 December 2023, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs called on international partners to accelerate progress towards ending the AIDS epidemic.<sup>2521</sup>

On 6 December 2023, Minister Rousseau announced a government investigation into the roots of addictive behaviour in youth in an effort to innovate public policies in youth addiction prevention.<sup>2522</sup> The ability to prevent addictions related to the long-term use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis aligns with section five of SDG 3.

On 8 December 2023, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva Jérôme Bonnafont, and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, signed several funding agreements totalling over EUR25.5 million enabling WHO to fund key health priorities related to universal health coverage, primary health care, and communicable and noncommunicable diseases.<sup>2523</sup> In addition, EUR6 million of the

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<sup>2518</sup> Antibiorésistance : une nouvelle stratégie interministérielle ambitieuse à 10 ans annoncée à l'occasion de la semaine mondiale de la sensibilité à la résistance aux antimicrobiens du 18 au 24 novembre, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 22 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023.

<https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/antibioresistance-une-nouvelle-strategie-interministerielle-ambitieuse-a-10-ans>

<sup>2519</sup> Territoires palestiniens - Aide humanitaire d'urgence supplémentaire déployée par la France (19 novembre 2023) Ministère de L'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 19 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/israel-territoires-palestiniens/actualites-et-evenements/2023/article/territoires-palestiniens-aide-humanitaire-d-urgence-supplementaire-deployee-par>

<sup>2520</sup> Aurélien Rousseau a présenté le nouveau Programme national de lutte contre le tabac (PNLT) 2023-2027 ce mardi 28 novembre 2023, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 28 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/aurelien-rousseau-a-presente-le-nouveau-programme-national-de-lutte-contre-le>

<sup>2521</sup> Santé mondiale – Journée mondiale de lutte contre le VIH/Sida (1er décembre 2023) Ministère de L'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 1 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/developpement/priorites-sectorielles/la-sante/actualites-et-evenements-lies-a-la-sante/article/sante-mondiale-journee-mondiale-de-lutte-contre-le-vih-sida-01-12-23>

<sup>2522</sup> Aurélien Rousseau confie au Professeur Amine Benyamina une mission sur les racines et les déterminants des conduites addictives chez les jeunes, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 6 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/aurelien-rousseau-confie-au-professeur-amine-benyamina-une-mission-sur-les>

<sup>2523</sup> France signs agreements to support WHO's work, World Health Organization (Paris) 8 December 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2024. <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-12-2023-08-12-2023-france-signs-agreements-to-support-who-s-work>

funding will be allocated to support mental health initiatives and global humanitarian responses. Funding towards these initiatives contributes to the advancement of sections three, four and eight of SDG 3.

On 12 December 2023, Minister Rousseau announced two commitments to strengthen abortion access. The measures expand midwives' ability to perform abortions, and increase rates paid to health providers carrying out abortions by 25 per cent.<sup>2524</sup> The demonstrated commitments increase access to sexual and reproductive health-care services found in section seven of SDG 3.

On 27 December 2023, President Macron promulgated a new law aimed at better coordinating France's health system, improving access to care and strengthening their means of combatting territorial health inequities.<sup>2525</sup> The new law outlines numerous measures to better coordinate the territorial organization of care making advancements in UHC.

On 29 December 2023, the Ministry of Health and Prevention, and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs launched an operation to welcome injured or seriously ill Palestinian children into French hospitals.<sup>2526</sup> Through the Ministry's Crisis and Support Centre, and the Embassy of France in Cairo, this operation will help contribute to a reduction of preventable deaths in Palestinian children under the age of five aiding section two of SDG 3.

On 16 February 2024, President Macron and Prime Minister Gabriel Attal announced EUR500 million in grants and EUR388 million in credit for health facilities.<sup>2527</sup>

On 21 February 2024, Minister of Labor, Health and Solidarity Catherine Vautrin, Minister Delegate for Industry and Energy Roland Lescure, and Minister Delegate for Health and Prevention Frédéric Valletoux announced a new 2024-2027 roadmap to combat national drug shortages.<sup>2528</sup> The plan focuses on essential medicines first, addressing their industrial vulnerability in supply lines and reliance on extra-European imports. The plan to address the shortage of health products is in tandem with achieving UHC and supports the accessibility of medicine through its availability as found in section b of SDG 3.

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<sup>2524</sup> Le ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention agit pour renforcer l'accès des femmes à l'IVG, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 12 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-ministere-de-la-sante-et-de-la-prevention-agit-pour-renforcer-l-acces-des-432413>

<sup>2525</sup> Promulgation de la loi du 27 décembre 2023 visant à améliorer l'accès aux soins par l'engagement territorial des professionnels, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 29 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/promulgation-de-la-loi-du-27-decembre-2023-visant-a-ameliorer-l-acces-aux-soins>

<sup>2526</sup> Accueil d'enfants palestiniens blessés dans les hôpitaux français le 28 décembre 2023, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 29 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/accueil-d-enfants-palestiniens-blesses-dans-les-hopitaux-francais-le-28>

<sup>2527</sup> Le gouvernement décide d'une aide exceptionnelle pour soutenir l'activité des établissements de santé, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 16 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-gouvernement-decide-d-une-aide-exceptionnelle-pour-soutenir-l-activite-des>

<sup>2528</sup> Pénuries de médicaments : la ministre du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités, le ministre délégué chargé de l'Industrie et de l'Énergie et le ministre délégué chargé de la Santé et de la Prévention annoncent une nouvelle stratégie pour garantir la disponibilité des médicaments et assurer à plus long terme une souveraineté industrielle, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 21 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/penuries-de-medicaments-la-ministre-du-travail-de-la-sante-et-des-solidarites>

On 21 February 2024, the Road Safety Delegation launched a national call for projects aimed at implementing actions in the field of prevention and awareness of road safety.<sup>2529</sup> Examples of proposed actions include the creation of an operational road safety reserve advancing commitments to section six of SDG 3.

On 26 February 2024, Minister Vautrin announced the delivery of EUR1 million in medical cargo for Egyptian hospitals treating patients from Gaza.<sup>2530</sup> This supply of aid supports section eight of SDG 3.

On 4 March 2024, the Senate and the National Assembly amended the constitution to guarantee a right to abortion.<sup>2531</sup> The reform advances section seven of SDG 3.

On 20 March 2024, France helped launch three Team Europe Initiatives with the African Union advancing health.<sup>2532</sup> Initiatives include sustainable health security with the European Union, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and Spain, support to public health institutes in Africa with the European Union, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, and digital health with the European Union, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The initiatives contribute to UHC and address sections C and D of SDG 3 through workforce training and supports and pandemic preparedness.

On 22 April 2024, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Safety launched a ten-year supportive care strategy with a budget of EUR1.1 billion to enhance palliative care, pain management, and end-of-life support.<sup>2533</sup> The creation of 30 targeted measures designed to strengthen accessibility to specialized care strengthens UHC.

On 24 April, the Minister Delegate of Health and Prevention Frédéric Valletoux published a new decree authorizing midwives to perform instrumental voluntary terminations of pregnancies within health establishments.<sup>2534</sup> Through the establishment of new training and organizational conditions, the decree enhances the accessibility of abortion services nationwide supporting section seven of SDG 3.

On 9 May 2024, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs transported nearly 2 tonnes of medicine to Lebanon to meet emergency and general medicine needs, particularly pediatric ones.<sup>2535</sup> The continued support for Lebanese population during its institutional, economic and security crisis meets section d of SDG 3.

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<sup>2529</sup> Lancement de l'Appel à projet national 2024 de la Délégation à la Sécurité routière, Ministère de l'Intérieur et des Outre-mer (Paris) 21 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024.

<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/lancement-de-lappel-a-projet-national-2024-de-delegation-a>

<sup>2530</sup> Égypte : poursuite de la coopération humanitaire en soutien à la population civile de Gaza, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 26 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 March 2024.

<https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/egypte-poursuite-de-la-cooperation-humanitaire-en-soutien-a-la-population>

<sup>2531</sup> La France, premier pays à inscrire l'IVG dans sa Constitution, TV5Monde (Paris) 4 March 2024. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 March 2024. <https://information.tv5monde.com/terriennes/la-liberte-garantie-de-livg-inscrite-dans-la-constitution-francaise-2711984>

<sup>2532</sup> Team Europe and African partners launch four initiatives to strengthen health systems and social protection in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1563](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1563)

<sup>2533</sup> Lancement de la stratégie décennale des soins d'accompagnement, Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention (Paris) 22 April 2024. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-la-strategie-decennale-des-soins-d-accompagnement>

<sup>2534</sup> Amélioration de l'accès à l'IVG: les conditions de réalisation des IVG instrumentales par les sages-femmes en établissements simplifiés, Ministère du Travail de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 24 April 2024. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2024. <https://sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/amelioration-de-l-acces-a-l-ivg-les-conditions-de-realisation-des-ivg>

<sup>2535</sup> Liban – Envoi d'aide médicale au profit des populations aidées par l'association des chevaliers de l'ordre de Malte au Liban et l'ONG Amel (9 mai 2024), France Diplomatie (Paris) 9 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/liban/evenements/article/liban-envoi-d-aide-medecale-au-profit-des-populations-aidees-par-l-association>

France has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. France advanced strong actions towards UHC, including improving access to healthcare services and the accessibility of prescription medication. France also acted on several targets of SDG 3, providing universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, addressing the harms of narcotics and illegal substances, acting on noncommunicable diseases like cancer and mental health, promoting children's health including for those under five, distributing vaccines to developing countries, limiting tobacco access, combatting environmental health hazards, and enhancing capacity towards health threats. France has, therefore, acted on seven SDG 3 targets.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Jacob Rudolph and Siobhan Mebrotra*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 26 May 2023, the Bundestag announced the Care Support and Relief Act, to ensure that parents pay less for nursing care insurance from the second child onwards.<sup>2536</sup> It also ensures that people in need of care at home will receive higher benefits in the future, and caring relatives receive more and easier support from long-term care insurance. This aims to ease the burden of home care on the patient and family. The act also increases contribution rates by 0.35 percentage points toward long-term care insurance. Finally, the act increasing the subsidies for home care costs.

On 20 June 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health organised a conference to discuss the framework conditions and opportunities for using health data within and outside European borders.<sup>2537</sup>

On 24 June 2023, Germany revised the Drinking Water Ordinance to guarantee a high level of drinking water quality while focusing especially on new challenges in the form of environmental factors affecting drinking water resources.<sup>2538</sup>

On 5 July 2023, the Federal Cabinet adopted the 2024 Draft Budgetary Plan.<sup>2539</sup> The plan includes the following measures with respect to public health care and allocates resources for: the Act Adopting the Federal Budget for the 2024 Fiscal Year and Fiscal Plan to 2027 adopted on 5 July 2023, the Long-term Care and Relief Support Act of 19 June 2023, and the Act to Combat Supply Shortages of Off-Patent Medicines and to Improve the Supply of Pediatric Medicines of 19 July 2023. The budget bill attends to general allocations and program breakouts for the federal Ministry of Health in support of universal public health. With respect to long term care, the budget increases the contribution rate in the long-term care insurance system by 0.35 per cent points as of 1 July 2023. It also enhances benefits and payments in kind for people receiving care in their own homes by 5 per cent effective 1 January 2024. The 'generics' bill establishes an early warning system to identify potential medicine supply shortages. It incentivises development and supply of pediatric medicines as well as generics; pricing can go up to 50 per cent over the latest reference price level. Additionally, the bill provides similar

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<sup>2536</sup> Reform der Pflegeversicherung: mehr Leistungen für stationäre und ambulante Pflege, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 26 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/pflegereform-beschluss-bundestag-26-05-23.html>

<sup>2537</sup> Data for Health Conference, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 16 December 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/ministry/news/data-for-health-conference-2023.html>

<sup>2538</sup> Drinking Water, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 24 June 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/topics/drinking-water.html>

<sup>2539</sup> German Draft Budgetary Plan 2024. Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) October 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023.

[https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/2024\\_dbp\\_de\\_en.pdf](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/2024_dbp_de_en.pdf)

mechanisms for supply critical active pharmaceutical ingredients. Reserve antibiotics against multi resistant bacterial pathogens will also be significantly privileged. Pharmacies' abilities to substitute medical products will be extended in the event of supply shortages. Collectively, these measures address sections eight and two of SDG 3's targets pertaining to universal health care and financial risk protection as well as available and affordable medicines and vaccines, and newborn and pediatric health respectively.

On 6 July 2023, Germany and Georgia formed coordinated partnerships in human biomonitoring at the 7th ministerial conference of the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>2540</sup> Human biomonitoring is used as a tool for health-related environmental monitoring, to determine the actual exposure of the population to pollutants. This helps measure the impact of pollutants and create actions and policies as needed.

On 10 July 2023, the German Federal Ministry of Health and the state governments agreed on a key point for a law on hospital reform. The aim of this reform is to increase the quality of treatment, lessen the burden of bureaucracy from the system and remove excessive economic constraints from hospitals. The reform is supposed to provide an advance allowance to necessary clinics, ensuring they can supply treatment even at lower quantities – reforming the flat rate per case system and providing greater access to treatment.<sup>2541</sup>

On 12 July 2023, Federal Health Minister Karl Lauterbach presented the Long Covid initiative to support those suffering the long-term effects of Covid-19.<sup>2542</sup> The Federal Ministry of Health has launched a website detailing offers of help, information on the current state of research and answers to the most important questions about long Covid. Additionally, Minister Lauterbach pledged EUR20 million in health services research towards long Covid.

On 9 August 2023, the Maternity protection committee published their first rule for risk assessment in the area of maternity protection, to support employers in carrying out risk assessments under maternity protection law.<sup>2543</sup> The rule specifies design of working conditions, impermissible working hours, activities and working conditions.

On 16 August 2023, the Federal Cabinet approved a law that regulates the controlled handling of cannabis, as well as making amendments to other regulations.<sup>2544</sup> Based on this new law, the Federal Ministry of Health launched a campaign to educate adolescents and young adults on marijuana use. The new law limits distribution to adolescents between 18 and 21 years of age to 30 grams per month with a limit on the permissible THC content to 10 percent and controls the quality of cannabis distribution to its pure form. The aim is to curb the dealing in diluted or toxic substances through the black market, and to reduce the number of users.

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<sup>2540</sup> Umwelt- und Gesundheitsminister\*innen verabschieden in Budapest gemeinsame Roadmap zur Bewältigung der gesundheitlichen Herausforderungen von Klimakrise, Artenaussterben und Verschmutzung, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Budapest) 6 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/roadmap-gesundheitliche-herausforderungen-klimakrise-pm-06-07-23.html>

<sup>2541</sup> Krankenhausreform, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 10 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 16 December 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/krankenhaus/krankenhausreform.html>

<sup>2542</sup> Start der BMG-Initiative Long COVID: Umfassende Unterstützung für Betroffene, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 12 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: December 13, 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bmg-initiative-long-covid-pm-12-07-23.html>

<sup>2543</sup> Vorgaben zur Gefährdungsbeurteilung veröffentlicht, Bundesministeriums für Familie, Senioren Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 9 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/vorgaben-zur-gefaehrungsbeurteilung-veroeffentlicht-229380>

<sup>2544</sup> Bundeskabinett beschließt Cannabisgesetz, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 16 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-cannabisgesetz-pm-16-08-23.html>

On 30 August 2023, the Federal Cabinet approved a law to “Accelerate the Digitalization of the Healthcare System” that sets up an electronic patient record for everyone with statutory health insurance at the beginning of 2025.<sup>2545</sup> The record provides a medication overview to use digital solutions to improve everyday care in the country. The use of e-prescription will be established as a binding standard in medication supply, and its use will be simplified for insured people.

On 28 September 2023, Federal Development Minister Svenja Schulze and Minister Lauterbach jointly hosted a conference “Pandemics – no time for neglect,” where representatives from politics, international organizations, civil society, science and the private sector discuss steps to prioritise when preventing and preparing for future pandemics and outbreaks.<sup>2546</sup>

On 28 September 2023, Germany reached two agreements with the WHO: one to contribute an additional EUR40 million to the organization’s work with over 50 active health emergencies and the other to host the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin.<sup>2547</sup> This brings Germany’s total monetary contribution for the year to WHO’s work with health emergencies to EUR53.5 million.

On 30 September 2023, Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke announced the funding of EUR20 million to the fund of the Global Framework on Chemicals to support projects that lay the groundwork for dealing with dangerous chemicals in around 100 countries which do not yet have such a capacity.<sup>2548</sup>

On 19 October 2023, the Bundestag passed the hospital Transparency Act, which requires hospitals to provide the Institute for the Hospital Remuneration System with transparent information about the care provided.<sup>2549</sup> This creates a data directory for public access of case numbers, available staff, complication rates, allocation to care levels and type of minimum services provided.

On 20 October 2023, the Bundestag passed the Nursing Studies Strengthening Act to strengthen university nursing education, to make it easier to recognize foreign qualifications in nursing.<sup>2550</sup> It also stipulates that future students will receive a training allowance for the entire duration of their studies, and costs of training institutions, as with vocational training, can be refinanced through training funds. This intends to increase the number of healthcare professionals and reduce barriers for people entering the profession.

On 3 November 2023, the German delegation at a meeting of WHO reaffirmed Germany’s support for WHO’s proposed pandemic accord, which aims to bring about international agreement for collaboration regarding

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<sup>2545</sup> Bundeskabinett beschließt Digitalgesetze für bessere Versorgung und Forschung im Gesundheitswesen, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 30 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-digitalgesetze-fuer-bessere-versorgung-und-forschung-im-gesundheitswesen.html>

<sup>2546</sup> Fachkonferenz zu Pandemievorsorge in Berlin, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 28 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/fachkonferenz-zu-pandemievorsorge-in-berlin.html>

<sup>2547</sup> Top donor Germany signs major contribution to WHO for health emergencies; signs host agreement for WHO pandemic hub, World Health Organization (Geneva) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 22 December 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/28-09-2023-top-donor-germany-signs-major-contribution-to-who-for-health-emergencies--signs-host-agreement-for-who-pandemic-hub>

<sup>2548</sup> Adoption of Global Framework on chemicals -for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 30 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bmv.de/en/pressrelease/globales-rahmenwerk-fuer-eine-welt-ohne-schaeden-durch-chemikalien-und-abfaelle-verabschiedet>

<sup>2549</sup> Bundestag beschließt Krankenhaustransparenzgesetz, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 19 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundestag-beschliesst-krankenhaustransparenzgesetz.html>

<sup>2550</sup> Bundestag beschließt Pflegestudiumstärkungsgesetz, Bundesministeriums für Familie, Senioren Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 30 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-pflegestudiumstaerkungsgesetz-231990>

health emergencies and research.<sup>2551</sup> The delegation also reaffirmed German support for WHO's 14th General Programme of Work for 2025-28, which aims, among other objectives, to handle pandemics, respond to health emergencies and deal with health risks from climate change and drug-resistant infections.

On 10 November 2023, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Research hosted a symposium on the topic of Artificial intelligence in Public Health Research where research findings in this area were presented.<sup>2552</sup> The symposium was intended to address the potential use of artificial intelligence in public health research and lay the groundwork for future collaborations in public healthcare.

On 13 December 2024, the Federal Cabinet approved a new pharmaceutical strategy to improve the production and development of pharmaceuticals.<sup>2553</sup> The strategy also accelerates clinical trials, strengthens approval structures and creates a framework conditions. The strategy takes steps towards enhanced access to medications.

On 16 January 2024, Minister Lauterbach presented emergency reform measures that aim to expedite patient care.<sup>2554</sup> The reforms focus on off-hour accessibility, telemedicine, home visits, and health system coordination.

On 2 February 2024, Minister Lauterbach and Ukrainian Minister of Health Viktor Liashko signed a declaration on expanding cooperation in the healthcare sector.<sup>2555</sup> The agreement outlines information sharing and training related to communicable and non-communicable diseases and mental health.

On 23 February 2024, the Bundestag passed the Cannabis act.<sup>2556</sup> The legislation advances efforts to prevent substance abuse especially amongst minors in line with section five of SDG 3.

On 20 March 2024, Germany helped launch three Team Europe Initiatives with the African Union advancing health.<sup>2557</sup> Initiatives include sustainable health security with the European Union, Belgium, Denmark, France, and Spain, support to public health institutes in Africa with the European Union, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, and digital health with the European Union, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The initiatives contribute to UHC and address sections C and D of SDG 3 through workforce training and supports and pandemic preparedness.

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<sup>2551</sup> Germany reaffirms its commitment to WHO and key health priorities, World Health Organization (Geneva) 8 November 2023. Access Date: 22 December 23. <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-11-2023-germany-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-who-and-key-health-priorities>

<sup>2552</sup> Symposium "Artificial Intelligence in public health research," Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 10 November 2023. Access Date: 16 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/ministry/news/symposium-artificial-intelligence-in-public-health-research.html>

<sup>2553</sup> Nationale Pharmastrategie beschlossen, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 13 December 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/nationale-pharmastrategie-beschlossen-pm-13-12-23.html>

<sup>2554</sup> Bundesgesundheitsminister Lauterbach legt Eckpunkte zur Notfallreform vor, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 16 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/eckpunkte-notfallverorgung-pm-16-01-24.html>

<sup>2555</sup> Deutschland und Ukraine vereinbaren engere Zusammenarbeit im Gesundheitswesen, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 2 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/deutschland-und-ukraine-vereinbaren-engere-zusammenarbeit-im-gesundheitswesen-pm-02-02-2024>

<sup>2556</sup> Lauterbach: Gesundheitsschutz hat Priorität, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 23 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 March 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bt-beschliesst-kontrollierte-abgabe-von-cannabis-zu-konsumzwecken-pm-23-02-2024.html>

<sup>2557</sup> Team Europe and African partners launch four initiatives to strengthen health systems and social protection in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1563](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1563)

On 27 March 2024, Cabinet adopted the Medical Research Act which streamlines the regulatory approval process for research and trials.<sup>2558</sup> The legislation improves the ability of organizations operating in Germany to contribute to section B of SDG 3.

On 16 April 2024, Minister Lauterbach announced EUR52 million to improve care for post-infectious long covid child patients in line with section four of SDG 3.<sup>2559</sup>

On 2 May 2024, Federal Minister of Health presents national suicide prevention strategy.<sup>2560</sup> The central strategies involve nationwide coordination center for advice and cooperation on suicide prevention, special training for healthcare and nursing professionals and developing a central Germany-wide crisis service emergency number. This advances section four of SDG 3.

On 15 May 2024, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Hospital Care Improvement Act, a series of hospital reforms aimed at reducing bureaucracy, improving access to healthcare in rural areas, provide greater maternity and emergency care, and provide better quality of care to patients.<sup>2561</sup> This bill is expected to come into effect in January 2025.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. Germany has taken numerous actions towards UHC, including improving access to healthcare services and improving treatment centres such as hospitals. Germany has also acted on several targets of SDG 3, including maternal mortality prevention, preventing harm from pollutants and contaminants, developing medicines, working against harmful substance use, preparing for future health emergencies, preventing pediatric mortality, combatting environmental health hazards, promoting universal healthcare access and preventing noncommunicable diseases. Germany has, therefore, taken action on eight SDG 3 targets.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Advika Gudi*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

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<sup>2558</sup> Bundesregierung beschließt Medizinforschungsgesetz, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 27 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 April 2024.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundesregierung-beschliesst-medizinforschungsgesetz-pm-27-03-2024.html>

<sup>2559</sup> Lauterbach: „Wendepunkt in der Long COVID Versorgung: Wir lassen Betroffene nicht allein“, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 16 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/3-runder-tisch-long-covid.html>

<sup>2560</sup> Lauterbach: „Das gesellschaftliche Tabu von Tod und Suizid überwinden“, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 30 April 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundesgesundheitsminister-stellt-nationale-suizidpraeventionsstrategie-vor-pm-02-05-2024.htmlf>

<sup>2561</sup> “Great inpatient treatment for all”, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 May 2024. Access Date: 31 May 2024. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/hospital-reforms-adopted-2283116>



On 22 May 2023, the Ministry of Health announced it would “continue to contribute constructively” to enhance the national health system.<sup>2562</sup> These reforms aim to improve healthcare service quality and accessibility, reflecting Italy’s dedication to advancing UHC.

On 22 May 2023, the Ministry of Health announced its support for the Ukrainian healthcare system, as part of a broader international effort to aid in crisis situations.<sup>2563</sup> This commitment involves providing essential resources and expertise to bolster healthcare services in Ukraine, reflecting Italy’s dedication to global health solidarity and alignment with the UHC goals and SDG 3’s target of increasing financing towards recruitment, development, training, and retention of the healthcare workforce in developing countries.

On 23 May 2023, Minister of Health Orazio Schillaci announced an allocation of EUR8 million for hospital and territorial healthcare assistance compromised by the flood.<sup>2564</sup> The decree law, supporting Emilia Romagna, focuses on safeguarding hospital and territorial healthcare services, recognizing continuous training credits for healthcare operators, and facilitating the management of establishments with animals. This initiative aims to restore and strengthen healthcare facilities affected by the flood, ensuring continued assistance and care despite challenges, reflecting Italy’s commitment to maintaining robust healthcare services in emergency situations.

On 25 May 2023, Minister Schillaci signed a Program Agreement with the Puglia Region, focusing on healthcare investments.<sup>2565</sup> This agreement allocates nearly EUR300 million for healthcare enhancements, including completing the New San Cataldo Hospital in Taranto and constructing the New Hospital of North Barese. This funding, aimed at providing advanced, innovative healthcare services to the Puglia community, represents a commitment by Italy to strengthen its public healthcare system, addressing both hospital and territorial healthcare needs. The initiative aligns with Universal Health Coverage goals.

On 13 June 2023, Minister Schillaci highlighted the Council of the EU’s adoption of a Recommendation as a crucial tool in combating antibiotic-resistant infections.<sup>2566</sup> Speaking at the EU Health Council in Luxembourg, Minister Schillaci emphasized the importance of targeted and informed antibiotic use, research support, rapid diagnostic tests, and effective communication within a One Health context. This initiative, focusing on reducing resistant infections in humans and animals, aligns with Italy’s commitment to enhancing health outcomes and supports the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 3, particularly in strengthening infection prevention, control, and robust surveillance systems.

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<sup>2562</sup> Assemblea Oms, Schillaci: “Da Italia collaborazione costruttiva per più alti livelli di salute” Il Ministro insieme al vice ministro Cirielli a Ginevra incontra il direttore generale Tedros, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5951](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5951)

<sup>2563</sup> Assemblea Oms, Schillaci: “Pieno sostegno al popolo ucraino, impegnati a supporto sistema sanitario” Il Ministro all’incontro organizzato dalla Polonia con il Ministro della Salute ucraino, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5952](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5952)

<sup>2564</sup> DL Maltempo, Schillaci: “8 milioni di euro per l’assistenza sanitaria ospedaliera e territoriale compromessa dall’alluvione”, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 23 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5954](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5954)

<sup>2565</sup> Investimenti in sanità, Schillaci firma Accordo di Programma con Regione Puglia, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 25 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5956](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5956)

<sup>2566</sup> Antibiotici, Schillaci: raccomandazione Ue importante strumento contrasto infezioni. Il Ministro della Salute al Consiglio Salute Ue in Lussemburgo, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5958](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5958)

On 10 July 2023, the Ministry of Health unveiled the National Plan for Rare Diseases (PNMR) 2023-2026.<sup>2567</sup> Orchestrated by Undersecretary Marcello Gemmato, this plan allocates EUR25 million annually for 2023 and 2024, aiming to provide uniform care for over 2 million Italians with rare diseases. The PNMR aligns with EU initiatives and focuses on diagnosis, treatment, and research, advancing Italy's commitment to UHC and SDG 3 of supporting research and development of medicines.

On 28 July 2023, Minister Schillaci emphasized the nation's 'maximum commitment' to combating hepatitis, highlighting prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatments as strategic focuses.<sup>2568</sup> This initiative, particularly through free national HCV screening and the updated National Plan for Viral Hepatitis Prevention, aligns with Italy's efforts towards eradicating hepatitis and supports the goals of UHC and the SDG 3's target of combating epidemics.

On 2 August 2023, the Italian State-Regions Conference approved the National Vaccination Plan 2023-2025, harmonizing vaccination strategies across regions to ensure equitable access.<sup>2569</sup> This plan focuses on proactive healthcare and addressing the needs of high-risk populations. Key objectives include maintaining polio-free status, eliminating measles and rubella, preventing human papillomavirus-related cancers, enhancing vaccine coverage, and addressing healthcare inequalities.

On 3 August 2023, Italy and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed a financing agreement for EUR6 million to expand the Kidane Mihret Catholic General Hospital in Adwa, Ethiopia in order to improve access to healthcare for more than 70,000 people in the region.<sup>2570</sup>

On 17 August 2023, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation signed a project agreement worth EUR7.6 million with UNOPS, aiming to provide multi-sectoral interventions to improve health conditions in Ethiopia.<sup>2571</sup> The project will ensure quality healthcare services and improved nutrition for schoolchildren.

On 12 September 2023, the Ministry of Health and the Deposits and Loans Fund (CDP) Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support scientific research projects under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR).<sup>2572</sup> This collaboration allocates up to EUR1 million for Italian Research Institutes already receiving PNRR funds, focusing on healthcare research initiatives. This joint effort aims to enhance biomedical research within the national health service, aligning with Italy's commitment to improving healthcare through research, a key aspect of UHC and SDG 3.

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<sup>2567</sup> Presentato il Piano Nazionale Malattie Rare 2023-2026. Gemmato: uno strumento aperto per un approccio multidisciplinare e di sistema, da declinare tutti insieme, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 10 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5959](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5959)  
<sup>2568</sup> Epatiti, Schillaci: "Massimo impegno contro grave minaccia per la salute pubblica", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 28 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5967](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5967)  
<sup>2569</sup> Nuovo piano vaccinale, via libera in Stato-Regioni, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 2 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5971](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5971)  
<sup>2570</sup> Italy, UNOPS Sign €6m to Expand Healthcare Service Delivery in Adwa, Ethiopian Monitor (Addis Ababa) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024. <https://ethiopianmonitor.com/2023/08/03/italy-unops-sign-e6m-to-expand-healthcare-service-delivery-in-adwa/>

<sup>2571</sup> UNOPS, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation sign €7.6 mln project agreement to improve health conditions in Ethiopia, United Nations (New York City) 17 August 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024. <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/246236-unops-italian-agency-development-cooperation-sign-%E2%82%AC76-mln-project-agreement-improve-health>

<sup>2572</sup> Ministero della Salute e Fondazione CDP insieme per i progetti del PNRR nella ricerca scientifica, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 12 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. [https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5977](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5977)

On 21 September 2023, Minister Schillaci, speaking at the UN General Assembly, emphasized the importance of strengthening international cooperation to improve global health.<sup>2573</sup> Highlighting lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic, he advocated for fortified health services and an interdisciplinary approach, aligning with the One Health strategy. This stance, reflecting Italy's commitment to UHC and SDG 3, also resonates with the country's focus for its 2024 G7 presidency, underscoring the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

On 28 September 2023, Minister Schillaci expressed satisfaction with the new agreement for the contractual renewal of the healthcare sector for 2019-2021.<sup>2574</sup> The agreement, a result of the Meloni government's commitment to address delays, brings improvements in economic aspects and working conditions for healthcare workers. He also reiterated the government's commitment to revitalizing the public healthcare sector, focusing on higher salaries and better work organization to address the shortage of medical professionals.

On 16 October 2023, Minister of Economy and Finance Giancarlo Giorgetti tabled the 2024 Draft Budget Plan with the Cabinet; its main measures focus on growing the national economy while maintaining sound public finances and social-economic balance as well as strengthening the national health care system. The draft budget allocates resources for public sector contract negotiations, with focus on health care workers.<sup>2575</sup> Minister Giorgetti adds an incremental EUR2.5 billion to increase their hourly wages in the 2024-2026 period. The budget increases financing for the national health care requirement by EUR3 billion for 2024, EUR4 billion for 2025, and EUR4.2 billion for 2026 towards SDG 3's target eight around universal health care, financial risk protection, and available and accessible medicines. These allocations ensure public health care funding reaches 6.4 per cent of gross domestic product. Funding health care in Sicily's region receives an additional EUR300 million share.

On 31 October 2023, the Council of Ministers published the Decree No. 145, the Budget Law 2024, approved on 18 October 2023.<sup>2576</sup> It provides authorization for the increases in the National Health Fund for 2024-2026 outlined in the 2024 Draft Budget Plan. Article 42 spells out that the National Health Fund improvements target distribution of medicines and the new ceilings set for pharmaceutical expenditures. Article 44 resets the ceilings at 8.6 per cent for direct purchases and 6.7 per cent for territorial pharmaceutical expenditures. As for distribution of medicines, Article 45 describes a new system of fixed and variable quotas for remuneration of pharmacies. Additional measures strengthen the network of pharmacies throughout the country. These initiatives are consistent with SDG 3's section eight.

On 31 October 2023, the Italian Embassy in Libya, along with the World Health Organization, signed a "One Health" agreement to support efforts to prevent and control arboviral and zoonotic diseases in Libya in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Health and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.<sup>2577</sup>

On 7 November 2023, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and UNOPS agreed to a EUR4.2 million project to promote healthcare quality in Sudan and provide a safe environment for patients with

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<sup>2573</sup> ONU, Schillaci: rafforzare cooperazione internazionale per migliorare la salute globale, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5981](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5981)

<sup>2574</sup> Sanità, Schillaci: soddisfazione accordo per rinnovo contratto, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 28 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5982](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5982)

<sup>2575</sup> 2024 Draft Budget Plan Italy, Minister of Economy and Finance (Rome) 16 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023.

[https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/2024\\_dbp\\_it\\_en.pdf](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/2024_dbp_it_en.pdf)

<sup>2576</sup> Italy: The Provisions of the Draft Budget Law concerning the pharmaceutical and health care sectors. Baker Mackenzie (Rome) 31 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=11ff4f19-2942-4ce4-be2a-373391038a0c>

<sup>2577</sup> WHO and Italy forge partnership to prevent and control arboviral and zoonotic diseases in Libya, World Health Organization (Tripoli) 31 October 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024. <https://www.emro.who.int/lby/libya-news/who-and-italy-forge-partnership-to-prevent-and-control-arboviral-and-zoonotic-diseases-in-libya.html>

disabilities.<sup>2578</sup> This project will focus on Kassala State, and aims to improve access to quality health services for more than 2.8 million people.

On 23 November 2023, Minister Schillaci signed a decree for the 2023 psychologist bonus, underlining mental health as a key priority.<sup>2579</sup> The decree, part of a comprehensive mental health initiative, allocated EUR5 million for 2023, rising to 8 million from 2024, with bonuses available based on income levels. This measure aims to expand Universal Health Care by enhancing mental health care and addressing social stigma.

On 1 December 2023, Minister Schillaci announced the government will be increasing funds for telemedicine and home care, with EUR750 million going towards proximity care and management of chronic illnesses.<sup>2580</sup>

On 5 December 2023, Minister Schillaci and Councillor for Welfare of the Lombardy Region Guido Bertolaso signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance hospital infrastructure and services.<sup>2581</sup> This agreement involves over EUR396 million in funding and focuses on organizing hospital networks, modernizing biomedical technologies, and improving service efficiency. Specific projects include the construction of a new building at Cremona hospital and upgrades across several other facilities, ensuring advanced and accessible healthcare services.

On 29 December 2023, Parliament passed the 2024 budget which will allocate EUR11.2 billion to the health fund over the next three years.<sup>2582</sup> Specifically, the budget increases financing for the national health care requirement by EUR3 billion for 2024, EUR4 billion for 2025, and EUR4.2 billion for 2026. These allocations ensure public health care funding reaches 6.4 per cent of gross domestic product.

On 23 January 2024, Minister Schillaci presented Italy's G7 health priorities at the OECD ministerial in Paris and focused on enhancing health services, promoting prevention, and implementing the One Health approach.<sup>2583</sup>

On 4 February 2024, Minister Schillaci highlighted the importance of prevention on World Cancer Day, advocating for uptake of free screening and healthy living to combat cancer.<sup>2584</sup> The emphasis on non-communicable disease prevention aligns with section four of SDG 3.

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<sup>2578</sup> UNOPS and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation sign €4.2 million to Promote Quality Health Care Service Provision in Sudan, United Nations (New York City) 7 November 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024.

<https://sudan.un.org/en/252002-unops-and-italian-agency-development-cooperation-sign-%E2%82%AC42-million-promote-quality-health>

<sup>2579</sup> Bonus psicologo, Schillaci: “Firmato decreto attuativo, salute mentale nostra priorità”, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 23 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. [https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5998](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5998)

<sup>2580</sup> PNRR, Schillaci: più fondi per telemedicina e assistenza domiciliare, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5999](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5999)

<sup>2581</sup> Assistenza ospedaliera, Ministero e Regione Lombardia firmano Protocollo d'Intesa, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 5 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6002](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6002)

<sup>2582</sup> Bilancio 2024, Schillaci: “Importante impegno per la salute, più risorse per valorizzare operatori sanitari e migliorare i servizi”, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 29 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6005](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6005)

<sup>2583</sup> G7 Salute, Schillaci alla Conferenza ministeriale OCSE, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 23 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6007](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6007)

<sup>2584</sup> Giornata mondiale cancro, Schillaci: “Prevenire è fondamentale, forte impegno per adesione a screening e stili di vita corretti,” Ministero della Salute (Rome) 4 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate.

On 14 February 2024, parliament passed amendments to the Milleproroghe decree amendments which include boosting support for children with cancer by EUR400,000 in 2024.<sup>2585</sup>

On 20 March 2024, Italy helped launch a Team Europe Initiative with the African Union to support public health institutes.<sup>2586</sup> Italy's collaborators on the initiative include the European Union, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. The initiative addresses sections C and D of SDG 3 through workforce training and supports in developing countries and pandemic preparedness.

On 22 March 2024, Minister Schillaci and regional health ministers agreed to common standards for therapeutic healthcare safety and quality.<sup>2587</sup> The agreement advances UHC.

On 7 April 2024, Minister Schillaci emphasized Italy's commitment to health as a fundamental right during World Health Day.<sup>2588</sup> Schillaci affirmed that ensuring the right to health remains a top priority for the government.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. It has demonstrated strong support of UHC, taking action across nine areas of SDG 3: increasing financing towards recruitment, development, training, and retention of the healthcare workforce in developing countries, achieving universal health coverage, supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines, strengthening capacity for early warning of global and national health risks, improving the health of children, combatting environmental health hazards, workforce training in developing countries, ending epidemics and combating noncommunicable diseases.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wyatt McConnell*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sust Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 26 May 2023, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency reached a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada the European Union, Switzerland, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the

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<sup>2585</sup> Milleproroghe, Schillaci. "Soddisfazione per gli emendamenti approvati," Ministero della Salute (Rome) 14 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6018](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6018)

<sup>2586</sup> Team Europe and African partners launch four initiatives to strengthen health systems and social protection in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1563](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1563)

<sup>2587</sup> Dipendenze patologiche, Intesa Stato-Regioni su criteri di sicurezza e qualità delle comunità terapeutiche, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6024](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6024)

<sup>2588</sup> Giornata mondiale della salute, Schillaci: "Impegno per diritto alla salute è assoluta priorità", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 7 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2024.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6029](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=6029)

United States.<sup>2589</sup> The partnership will expedite and improve access to medicines and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 26 July 2023, representatives from the Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry attended a press conference regarding the launch of “Japan Health,” an international exhibition for healthcare and medical devices.<sup>2590</sup> This support for innovation reaffirms section B of SDG 3.

On 21 August 2023, Japan announced a USD2.4 million investment to Fiji’s Ministry of Health, targeted towards improving Fiji’s primary healthcare systems.<sup>2591</sup> The funding advances section C of SDG 3 in line with its emphasis on small island developing states.

On 31 August 2023, Japan collaborated with the Government of Taiwan to hold the 20th Japan-Taiwan Symposium on Infectious Diseases.<sup>2592</sup> At this symposium, representatives from both countries discussed topics including vaccine promotion, antimicrobial resistance, and surveillance strategies for emerging infectious diseases. These dialogues complement sections three, B, and D of SDG 3.

On 13 September 2023, Japan announced funding of USD72,000 to the Jezmo Charity Association, a Jordanian non-profit.<sup>2593</sup> This funding will go towards the provision of medical equipment across Jordan and advances section C of SDG 3.

On 18 September 2023, Japan sponsored an event organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the topic of “Integrating Essential Nutrition Actions in Universal Health Coverage.”<sup>2594</sup>

On 18 September 2023, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Keizo Takemi signed a Statement of Intent on Japan-US Health Security Collaboration with the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra.<sup>2595</sup> This agreement will allow the countries to continue to work together on planning, developing, and distributing emergency medicines.

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<sup>2589</sup> MHRA announces new recognition routes to facilitate safe access to new medicines with seven international partners, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-announces-new-recognition-routes-to-facilitate-safe-access-to-new-medicines-with-seven-international-partners>

<sup>2590</sup> Press Conference Held Announcing “Japan Health,” an International Exhibition Promoting Innovation and Competitiveness in Medical Devices, Japan Health (Tokyo) 26 July 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://japanhealthonline.com/en/press-conference-held-announcing-japan-health-an-international-exhibition-promoting-innovation-and-competitiveness-in-medical-devices/>

<sup>2591</sup> Japanese Government Gives \$24 Million Grant to Health Ministry, Fiji Village (Suva) 21 August 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://www.fijivillage.com/news/Japanese-Govt-gives-24m-grant-to-Health-Ministry--Dr-Fong-58rxf4>

<sup>2592</sup> Japan-Taiwan Symposium on Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (Taipei) 31 August 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/en/international-sympo/12262-japan-taiwan-symposium-on-infectious-diseases-the-1st-16th-5.html>

<sup>2593</sup> Japan offers \$72,245 grant for medical equipment to Jemzo Charity Association, The Jordan Times (Amman) 13 September 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/japan-offers-72245-grant-medical-equipment-jemzo-charity-association>

<sup>2594</sup> Integrating Essential Nutrition Actions in Universal Health Coverage, World Health Organization (Geneva) 18 September 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/09/18/default-calendar/integrating-essential-nutrition-actions-in-universal-health-coverage>

<sup>2595</sup> アメリカ合衆国保健福祉省との：日米健康安全保障連携に関する意図表明文書に署名、厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 18 September 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_35744.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_35744.html)

On 21 September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida delivered remarks at the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on UHC.<sup>2596</sup> Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed Japan's commitment to leading efforts surrounding UHC, referencing the G7 Hiroshima Summit as evidence of Japan's previous work.

On 21 September 2023, Japan organized an event in partnership with the WHO regarding "Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures and Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health."<sup>2597</sup>

On 1 October 2023, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced that it will sponsor two months of a Narcotics, Stimulants and Cannabis Abuse Prevention Campaign with the aim of raising awareness regarding the use of drugs and eventually eradicating drugs.<sup>2598</sup>

On 10 October 2023, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism announced new revisions to the Passenger Motor Vehicle Transportation Business Transportation Regulations in order to improve the safety of chartered buses and prevent traffic accidents.<sup>2599</sup>

On 19 October 2023, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced the purchase of 9 million doses of the omicron Covid-19 vaccine from Pfizer and 1 million doses of Moderna in order to ensure reliable supply of vaccines to the public.<sup>2600</sup>

On 31 October 2023, Japan announced funding of EUR154,000 to improve health facility infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The funding advances section C of SDG 3.<sup>2601</sup>

On 2 November 2023, Japan announced funding of USD15 million to improve hospital infrastructure in Jamaica. The funding addresses section C of SDG 3 including its emphasis on small island developing states.<sup>2602</sup>

On 1 December 2023, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced awareness events for World AIDS Day along with various organizations in order to promote education regarding the disease.<sup>2603</sup>

On 19 February 2024, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare released updated guidelines on preventing health problems caused by alcohol, seeking to improve health conditions across the country.<sup>2604</sup> The guidelines advance section five of SDG 3.

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<sup>2596</sup> Statement by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio At the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, United Nations (New York) 21 September 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023.

<https://japan.kantei.go.jp/content/000135781.pdf>

<sup>2597</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks: Toward more Resilient, Equitable and Sustainable Universal Health Coverage in 2030, World Health Organization (Geneva) 21 September 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023.

<https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks--toward-more-resilient--equitable-and-sustainable-universal-health-coverage-in-2030---21-september-2023>

<sup>2598</sup> 麻薬・覚醒剤・大麻乱用防止運動の実施について, 厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 1 October 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000179105\\_00010.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000179105_00010.html)

<sup>2599</sup> 貸切バスの安全性向上に向けた対策のための制度改正を行いました, 国土交通省 (Tokyo) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023. [https://www.mlit.go.jp/report/press/jidosha02\\_hh\\_000601.html](https://www.mlit.go.jp/report/press/jidosha02_hh_000601.html)

<sup>2600</sup> 新型コロナウイルスワクチンの追加購入に係るファイザー社及びモデルナ社との合意について, 厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_35861.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_35861.html)

<sup>2601</sup> Government of Japan approved Grant Aid of 153,517 Euros for Health Care Institutes in BiH, Sarajevo Times (Sarajevo) 31 October 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. [https://sarajevotimes.com/government-of-japan-approved-grant-aid-153517-euros-for-health-care-institutes-in-bih/#google\\_vignette](https://sarajevotimes.com/government-of-japan-approved-grant-aid-153517-euros-for-health-care-institutes-in-bih/#google_vignette)

<sup>2602</sup> Japan provides \$15-million grant to purchase ambulance for Falmouth Hospital, The Gleaner (Kingston) 1 November 2023. Date Accessed: 4 November 2023. <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20231102/japan-provides-15-million-grant-purchase-ambulance-falmouth-hospital>

<sup>2603</sup> 世界エイズデーに向けた普及啓発イベントを実施します, 厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 24 December 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582\\_00012.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00012.html)

<sup>2604</sup> Japan's Health Ministry Publishes Alcohol Guidelines, Nippon (Tokyo) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2023. <https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-data/h01921/>

On 3 March 2024, the Japanese government along with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) assisted Moldova in introducing mandatory newborn hearing screenings, improving the UHC services offered by the country.<sup>2605</sup>

On 10 March 2024, Japan announced USD5 million in funding for the Pan-American Highway for Digital Health Initiative, to contribute to pandemic readiness and healthcare building efforts.<sup>2606</sup> The contribution advances section D of SDG 3 and its goal to strengthen capacity to combat national and global health risks.

On 11 March 2024, Ambassador to Egypt Hiroshi Oka and World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Egypt Nina Abid announced USD8 million in grants to the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, to injured and ill patients evacuated from the Gaza Strip into Egypt.<sup>2607</sup> The funds advance UHC access and through training of staff in Egypt contribute to section C of SDG 3.

On 22 March 2024, Japan announced the launch of a new international organization beginning in 2025, dedicated to strengthening healthcare in developing countries through a partnership with the WHO and the World Bank.<sup>2608</sup> This organization, tentatively titled the UHC Knowledge Hub, contributes to sections eight and C of SDG 3.

On 28 March 2024, the Diet passed the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget.<sup>2609</sup> The budget includes measures to lower drug prices and enhance pharmaceutical access.<sup>2610</sup> The Bill expands health coverage through a JPY90 billion combined investment. As well, JPY62.5 billion aims to increase consultations and care for maternal patients. The initiatives advances sections one and eight of SDG 3.

On 23 April 2024, the Ministry of the Environment announced that it will be implementing a special alert system to protect the population from unprecedented heat to prevent harm to human health.<sup>2611</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. Japan demonstrated strong action towards universal health coverage both nationally and globally. It has also taken action on nine aspects of SDG 3: road traffic safety, preventing drug abuse, preventing maternal mortality researching and developing medicines and vaccines, ending global epidemics, promoting universal health coverage, reducing environmental health impacts, and bolstering the capacity of countries to combat global and national health risks and financing the development of healthcare systems in developing countries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Hannah Cluroe*

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<sup>2605</sup> Moldova Introduces Compulsory Neonatal Hearing Screening, Backed by UNICEF and Japan, Business News Network (New York) 3 March 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2023. <https://bnnbreaking.com/breaking-news/health/moldova-introduces-compulsory-neonatal-hearing-screening-backed-by-unicef-and-japan>

<sup>2606</sup> Japan Becomes First Official Donor of Pan-American Highway for Digital Health Initiative, Pan American Health Organization (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/10-3-2024-japan-becomes-first-official-donor-pan-american-highway-digital-health-initiative>

<sup>2607</sup> WHO and Japan sign US\$ 8 million agreement to support patients from Gaza Strip in Egypt, World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region (Cairo) 11 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-and-japan-sign-us-8-million-agreement-to-support-patients-from-gaza-strip-in-egypt.html>

<sup>2608</sup> Japan to Launch Global Health Development Hub by 2025, Collaborating with WHO, World Bank, Japan News (Tokyo) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/politics-government/20240322-175959/>

<sup>2609</sup> Japan approves 112.57-trln-yen budget for fiscal 2024, Xinhua (Tokyo) 28 March 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://english.news.cn/20240328/5f97aa69d37143fda9bb6cbb6e0d0f6a/c.html>

<sup>2610</sup> Highlights of the FY2024 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/budget/budget/fy2024/01.pdf>

<sup>2611</sup> Japan to put special alert system for heatstroke in place, Japan Times (Tokyo) 23 April 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/04/23/japan/science-health/japan-special-heatstroke-alert/>



### United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 22 May 2023, the Minister of State for Health and Social Care Will Quince and Minister of State for Development and Africa Andrew Mitchell announced GBP39 million for research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).<sup>2612</sup> The funding includes GBP24 million for new antibiotic and vaccine development which advances section B of SDG 3. Deaths caused by AMR disproportionately impact children under five years of age meaning these efforts directly address goals in section two of SDG 3. The funding increases capacity for nations to mitigate and manage health threats and Minister of State Quince's unveiling of the UK's Global Health Framework strengthen section D of SDG 3. The framework recommits the UK to the SDGs and presents plans to bolster global health security, the World Health Organization (WHO) and to promote research and development.

On 24 May 2023, the Minister for Development Andrew Mitchell pledged GBP143 million in humanitarian aid to East Africa.<sup>2613</sup> The funding enables partners to deliver health services and promotes section eight of SDG 3.

On 25 May 2023, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Steve Barclay announced GBP20 billion in capital funding to rebuild five hospitals.<sup>2614</sup> The funding to repair the hospitals reduces risks for patients and staff while ensuring that access to UHC will continue in affected communities.

On 26 May 2023, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) announced the Innovative Devices Access Pathway to streamline regulations and facilitate product to patient delivery.<sup>2615</sup> The pathway targets medical devices that can improve treatment outcomes and advances section four of SDG 3 to help prevent premature mortality.

On 26 May 2023, the MHRA announced a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore and the United States.<sup>2616</sup> The partnership will expedite and improve access to medicines and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 30 May 2023, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public Health Neil O'Brien announced plans to close a regulatory loophole that allows distribution of free vaping samples to minors.<sup>2617</sup> In addition, they launched a review into prohibiting nicotine-free vape sales to minors. To bolster prevention efforts, vaping risk education forms a new component in the Relationships, Sex and Health

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<sup>2612</sup> £39 million for AMR research as UK launches Global Health Framework, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/39-million-for-amr-research-as-uk-launches-global-health-framework>

<sup>2613</sup> UK pledges support for over a million people in East Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-over-a-million-people-in-east-africa>

<sup>2614</sup> Five major hospitals to be rebuilt as part of over £20 billion new hospital infrastructure investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/five-major-hospitals-to-be-rebuilt-as-part-of-over-20-billion-new-hospital-infrastructure-investment>

<sup>2615</sup> New regulatory pathway set to support safe patient access to innovative medical technologies, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulatory-pathway-set-to-support-safe-patient-access-to-innovative-medical-technologies>

<sup>2616</sup> MHRA announces new recognition routes to facilitate safe access to new medicines with seven international partners, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-announces-new-recognition-routes-to-facilitate-safe-access-to-new-medicines-with-seven-international-partners>

<sup>2617</sup> No more free vapes for kids, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/no-more-free-vapes-for-kids>

Education curriculum. G7 members classify vapes as tobacco products and their control strengthens implementation of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), advancing section A of SDG 3.<sup>2618</sup>

On 9 June 2023, the MHRA announced the Windsor Framework to secure medicine supplies to Northern Ireland.<sup>2619</sup> The framework allows access to pharmaceuticals furthering section eight of SDG 3.

On 14 June 2023, the Minister of State for Health and Social Care Helen Whately announced government commitments to assist local health systems.<sup>2620</sup> The government committed to aiding local units to implement the new National Health System (NHS) England operating framework, and to offer greater funding certainty and alleviate administrative burdens by tweaking reporting requirements. The commitments benefit UHC delivery and access by empowering local providers.

On 15 June 2023, Parliamentary Under Secretary O'Brien announced that those aged 60 and over will continue receiving free prescription medication and that the eligibility age will not be raised to 66 to match the pension system.<sup>2621</sup> The pharmaceutical coverage program bolster access to affordable medicines under UHC.

On 15 June 2023, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, the United Nations and the Commonwealth Tariq Ahmed pledged GBP150 million for Syrians in need.<sup>2622</sup> The funds aim to provide resources to 65,000 vulnerable Syrians annually and advance section seven of SDG 3 by offering specialized sexual and reproductive healthcare.

On 23 June 2023, Secretary of State Barclay and Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Chloe Smith allocated GBP21 million to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Diagnostic Fund speed diagnosis and improve treatment outcomes for non-communicable conditions.<sup>2623</sup> The funding supports premature death prevention and section four of SDG 3.

On 26 June 2023, Prime Minister Sunak and Secretary of State Barclay announced a national targeted lung cancer screening programme to aid early detection and improve treatment outcomes.<sup>2624</sup> The program focuses on those aged 55 to 74 with a smoking history. The cancer-combatting efforts aim to reduce premature mortality and aid section four of SDG 3.

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<sup>2618</sup> What Do We Know About E-cigarettes?, American Cancer Society (Atlanta) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/tobacco/e-cigarettes-vaping/what-do-we-know-about-e-cigarettes.html>

<sup>2619</sup> Windsor Framework medicines announcement, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windsor-framework-medicines-announcement>

<sup>2620</sup> Government takes action to strengthen local care systems, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-action-to-strengthen-local-care-systems>

<sup>2621</sup> Free prescription age frozen at 60, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-prescription-age-frozen-at-60>

<sup>2622</sup> UK funding for Syrians reaches almost £200 million this year, Government of the United Kingdom (Brussels) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-funding-for-syrians-reaches-almost-200-million-this-year>

<sup>2623</sup> £21 million to roll out artificial intelligence across the NHS, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/21-million-to-roll-out-artificial-intelligence-across-the-nhs>

<sup>2624</sup> New lung cancer screening roll out to detect cancer sooner, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-lung-cancer-screening-roll-out-to-detect-cancer-sooner>

On 28 June 2023, Secretary of State Barclay and Minister of State Whately opened bids for a GBP1 million defibrillator fund.<sup>2625</sup> The fund aims to place defibrillators in more public spaces. The lifesaving devices aim to prevent premature mortality from heart related conditions and help achieve section four of SDG 3.

On 29 June 2023, Secretary of State Barclay unveiled a digital health check to detect hypertension and cardiovascular disease.<sup>2626</sup> The check aims to prevent heart attack and stroke cases by detecting heart problems earlier. These premature death prevention efforts further progress towards section four of SDG 3. The digital check also aspires to improve UHC access by opening up space for appointments.

On 30 June 2023, the NHS England released its GBP2.4 billion Long Term Workforce Plan.<sup>2627</sup> The plan aims to address shortfalls within the healthcare system and protect the UK's UHC system through training efforts to ensure access to quality care. The plan also outlines the government's effort to double medical school places, increase General Practitioner (GP) places by 50 percent, nearly double nursing places, and increase dentistry places by 40 percent by 2031. The plan also includes retention efforts through enhanced contract flexibility, pension scheme reforms, and improved childcare availability. The NHS places renewed focus on efficiency by incorporating technological innovations and associate positions. The plan commits the government to explore reforms that incentivize dentists to provide more public NHS care, thereby expanding dental care access as part of UHC.

On 4 July 2023, the Minister of State for Education Nick Gibb and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women and for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy Maria Caulfield announced that the government expanded the free flu vaccine program to cover secondary school students.<sup>2628</sup> The efforts to achieve universal vaccine access further section eight of SDG 3.

On 5 July 2023, Prime Minister Sunak, the Secretary of State Barclay, and the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade, and the Minister for Women and Equalities announced an agreement with BioNTech SE to tailored cancer immunotherapies and vaccines for 10,000 patients by 2030.<sup>2629</sup> This advancement in cancer treatment advances section four of SDG 3.

On 6 July 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay convened an NHS Recovery Summit to address waitlists in the UHC system.<sup>2630</sup> The summit facilitated ideas and cooperation to improve UHC access.

On 10 July 2023, the Representative at the British Office Taipei John Dennis and Taiwanese Representative to the United Kingdom Kelly Wu-Chao Hsieh signed a memorandum of understanding including cooperation commitments on pandemic preparedness, health insurance, and mental health.<sup>2631</sup> The memorandum furthers

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<sup>2625</sup> Bids invited for £1 million defibrillator fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bids-invited-for-1-million-defibrillator-fund>

<sup>2626</sup> New digital health check to tackle deadly cardiovascular disease, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-digital-health-check-to-tackle-deadly-cardiovascular-disease>

<sup>2627</sup> NHS Long Term Workforce Plan, National Health Service England (London) 30 June 2023. Access Date 9 December 2023. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.2.pdf>

<sup>2628</sup> All secondary school pupils eligible for free flu vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-secondary-school-pupils-eligible-for-free-flu-vaccine>

<sup>2629</sup> Major agreement to deliver new cancer vaccine trials, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-agreement-to-deliver-new-cancer-vaccine-trials>

<sup>2630</sup> NHS Recovery Summit held to help cut waiting lists, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-recovery-summit-held-to-help-cut-waiting-lists>

<sup>2631</sup> The MOU on Health Cooperation between the UK and Taiwan, Government of the United Kingdom (Taipei) 10 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-mou-on-health-cooperation-between-the-uk-and-taiwan>

efforts on health threat management capacity in section D of SDG 3, financial risk protection for UHC, and mental health promotion in section four of SDG 3.

On 20 July 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary Caulfield established a maternal and neonatal care oversight group to improve care quality through standards, best practices, and accountability.<sup>2632</sup> The new oversight body follows a report on shortcomings at the East Kent Hospitals NHS trust and accompanies other directives to combat mortality. Measures include a national monitoring taskforce for maternity and neonatal wards, two investigations on training and teamwork to augment care, and maternity care representation on trust boards. The new actions promote maternal and neonatal health and address sections one and two of SDG 3.

On 22 July 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Caulfield announced new policies to support women's health.<sup>2633</sup> The measures allocate GBP25 million to finance women's health hubs across the country. The NHS website launched a new area dedicated to women's health featuring information on periods, adenomyosis, gynaecological conditions, fertility, pregnancy, heart health and cancers. Website changes also include access to information on publicly funded in vitro fertilization treatment. Caulfield also announced a new AI method to monitor maternity health risks. The suite of measures address sections one and seven of SDG 3 by aiming to reduce maternal mortality and expand access to sexual and reproductive care.

On 25 July 2023, the UK Health Security Agency released its three-year strategy to bolster health security and tackle new and re-emerging risks.<sup>2634</sup> The strategy focuses on infectious diseases and environmental health hazards. In the report, the UK commits to support the WHO's health security priorities including in developing countries.<sup>2635</sup> The strategy strengthens global capacity to mitigate and manage health risks under section D of SDG 3.

On 28 July 2023, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly announced GBP1 million for women and children in Yemen.<sup>2636</sup> The funds aid access to food, water, and reproductive and sexual health services. The aid aims to lower mortality and illness for women and children while advancing section one, two, and seven of SDG 3.

On 3 August 2023, the Minister of State Quince and Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation George Freeman announced GBP33 million for inhaler manufacturing.<sup>2637</sup> The funds support drug availability within the UHC system aiding access and affordability.

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<sup>2632</sup> Government acts to boost the quality of care for mothers and babies, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-acts-to-boost-the-quality-of-care-for-mothers-and-babies>

<sup>2633</sup> Boost for women and girls as Women's Health Strategy turns one, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-women-and-girls-as-womens-health-strategy-turns-one>

<sup>2634</sup> UKHSA launches new strategy to tackle national and global health hazards, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-new-strategy-to-tackle-national-and-global-health-hazards>

<sup>2635</sup> UKHSA Strategic Plan 2023-2026, United Kingdom Health Security Agency (London) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650d530e52e73c00139426c1/UKHSA\\_3\\_year\\_strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650d530e52e73c00139426c1/UKHSA_3_year_strategy.pdf)

<sup>2636</sup> UK announces new support for vulnerable Yemeni women and children, Government of the United Kingdom (Amman) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-support-for-vulnerable-yemeni-women-and-children>

<sup>2637</sup> £33 million joint investment to boost skills, support jobs and bolster green manufacturing in UK life sciences industry, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/33-million-joint-investment-to-boost-skills-support-jobs-and-bolster-green-manufacturing-in-uk-life-sciences-industry>

On 4 August 2023, the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Trudy Harrison made GBP6 million in Air Quality Grants available to communities.<sup>2638</sup> The grants primarily focus on reducing particulate matter and other pollution to below legal thresholds and help achieve section nine of SDG 3.

On 7 August 2023, the UK Health Security Agency introduced the Vaccine Development and Evaluation Centre.<sup>2639</sup> The centre's initiatives span vaccine research, development, testing, and evaluation which advance section B of SDG 3. The centre emphasizes work on gaps in current vaccine capabilities.

On 10 August 2023, the Minister of State Quince announced an interim delivery plan to address myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome care.<sup>2640</sup> The plan aims to advance research, change attitudes, and enhance education about the illness. The plan's well-being promotion efforts fall within section four of SDG 3.

On 13 August 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay opened dialogues with administrations in Wales and Scotland to address medical waitlists.<sup>2641</sup> The efforts to shorten waitlists enhance access to UHC.

On 14 August 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay launched a public consultation on tobacco packaging inserts that encourage people to quit smoking.<sup>2642</sup> The proposed inserts address section a of SDG 3 and its commitment towards the WHO FCTC.

On 15 August 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay and the Minister of State Quince announced GBP250 million to add 900 beds throughout the NHS system.<sup>2643</sup> The funding strengthens care delivery and expands hospital care access to bolster UHC.

On 16 August 2023, Secretary of State Barclay announced GBP210 million to combat antimicrobial resistance.<sup>2644</sup> The UK will partner with countries across Asia and Africa to strengthen health risk management capacity and progress section D of SDG 3.

On 22 August 2023, the UK Health Security Agency launched a GBP1 million study into mpox asymptomatic transmission and opened a call for participants.<sup>2645</sup> The study aims to provide information on communicable disease spread and advances efforts to achieve section 3 of SDG 3.

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<sup>2638</sup> £6 million to improve air quality in local communities, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.goeuropean.unv.uk/government/news/6-million-to-improve-air-quality-in-local-communities>

<sup>2639</sup> UKHSA unveils VDEC in 'step change' for UK's growing vaccine capabilities, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 7 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-unveils-vdec-in-step-change-for-uks-growing-vaccine-capabilities>

<sup>2640</sup> Government announces new plan to help those impacted by ME/CFS, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-new-plan-to-help-those-impacted-by-mecfs>

<sup>2641</sup> UK health secretary steps in to offer long-term waiting list support in Wales and Scotland, Government of the United Kingdom 13 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-health-secretary-steps-in-to-offer-long-term-waiting-list-support-in-wales-and-scotland>

<sup>2642</sup> New inserts in cigarette packs to help smokers quit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-inserts-in-cigarette-packs-to-help-smokers-quit>

<sup>2643</sup> £250 million to boost NHS capacity with 900 new beds, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/250-million-to-boost-nhs-capacity-with-900-new-beds>

<sup>2644</sup> £210 million to tackle deadly antimicrobial resistance, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/210-million-to-tackle-deadly-antimicrobial-resistance>

<sup>2645</sup> Call for participants to new asymptomatic mpox transmission study, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-participants-to-new-asymptomatic-mpox-transmission-study>

On 25 August 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Caulfield announced GBP10 million for a relaunched fund to help non-governmental organizations expand suicide prevention efforts.<sup>2646</sup> The fund aims to reduce premature mortality as detailed in section four of SDG 3.

On 29 August 2023, the Minister of State Freeman and Minister of State Quince awarded GBP5 million to twelve projects which seek to combat fatal drug overdoses.<sup>2647</sup> The focus on premature death prevention and substance abuse progress sections four and five of SDG 3.

On 1 September 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care awarded the Tropical Health Education Trust GBP9 million to workforce training and exchange programs in Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana.<sup>2648</sup> The funding's focus on the health workforce in developing counties addresses section C of SDG 3.

On 4 September 2023, the MHRA released guidance to industry on the common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore and the United States.<sup>2649</sup> The guidance aims to help implement the expedited and improve access to medicines that the partnership puts in place and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 5 September 2023, the Minister of State Freeman launched the Medicines Manufacturing Skills Centre of Excellence backed by GBP5.5 million to attract and retain talent to spur medicinal innovation.<sup>2650</sup> The centre and funding aid the research and development process for medicine and further efforts towards section B of SDG 3.

On 11 September 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State released the Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: 2023-2028.<sup>2651</sup> The strategy aims to reduce suicide deaths within two and a half years. It establishes an alert system to better prepare educational institutions and charities to mitigate risks and promote safety. The strategy outlines updated methods for first responders and plans for implementing a suicide trend surveillance system. The plan also promotes international cooperation. By introducing steps to reduce premature mortality, the strategy advances section four of SDG 3.

On 12 September 2023, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury Victoria Atkins announced GBP12.4 million in treasury awards for information and education projects about endometriosis.<sup>2652</sup> The projects seek to assess impact on women in the workplace. The funding addresses components of sexual and reproductive health outlined in section seven of SDG 3.

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<sup>2646</sup> Government suicide prevention fund for charity sector to be boosted, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 August 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-suicide-prevention-fund-for-charity-sector-to-be-boosted>

<sup>2647</sup> £5 million fund to tackle fatal drug deaths across the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 August 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-fund-to-tackle-fatal-drug-deaths-across-the-uk>

<sup>2648</sup> £15 million funding to strengthen health workforce in Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 September 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-million-funding-to-strengthen-health-workforce-in-kenya-nigeria-and-ghana#full-publication-update-history>

<sup>2649</sup> Guidance published on the new international regulatory recognition routes for medicines approvals, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-published-on-the-new-international-regulatory-recognition-routes-for-medicines-approvals>

<sup>2650</sup> £5.5 million Centre of Excellence to keep UK medicines manufacturers at the front of the global race for skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 September 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/55-million-centre-of-excellence-to-keep-uk-medicines-manufacturers-at-the-front-of-the-global-race-for-skills>

<sup>2651</sup> Major national strategy to reduce number of tragic suicides, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 September 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-national-strategy-to-reduce-number-of-tragic-suicides>

<sup>2652</sup> £12.4 million to help change choices about work, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/124-million-to-help-change-choices-about-work>

On 12 September 2023, the Permanent Under-Secretary at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Phillip Barton announced GBP3 million for the United Nations High for Refugees to deliver humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees.<sup>2653</sup> The funding aims to provide healthcare access and moves forward section eight of SDG 3.

On 13 September 2023, the MHRA introduced a new regional centre to facilitate adverse impact reporting from medications.<sup>2654</sup> The 'Yellow Card' centre aims to ensure the safety and efficacy of available medicines and addresses section eight of SDG 3.

On 14 September 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay and Minister of State Whately announced GBP200 million for the NHS targeted at enhancing care in the UHC system this winter.<sup>2655</sup>

On 27 September 2023, the UK Health Security Agency delivered genomic sequencing equipment to the Caribbean Public Health Agency to assist in Covid-19 monitoring.<sup>2656</sup> The equipment strengthens the capacity of developing countries in relation to health risks as outlined in section d of SDG 3.

On 29 September 2023, the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Leo Docherty announced GBP1 million for Red Cross humanitarian efforts in Nagorno-Karabakh.<sup>2657</sup> The aid allows the Red Cross to provide medication and healthcare access promoting section eight of SDG 3.

On 3 October 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay announced GBP30 million for technology implementation at the NHS.<sup>2658</sup> One project aims to expand virtual wards to improve access to care at home and open spaces for care in hospitals advancing UHC. Other initiatives address section four of SDG 3 with improved imaging technology to aid earlier diagnoses for cancer and other non-communicable diseases.

On 3 October 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay announced that the government moved forward its timeline to fund 205 additional medical school places by 2024.<sup>2659</sup> The change means that the NHS will experience an earlier injection of staff and patients will see better access to UK's UHC system.

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<sup>2653</sup> UK provides £3,000,000 of new humanitarian support for Rohingya refugees, Government of the United Kingdom (Dhaka) 12 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-3000000-of-new-humanitarian-support-for-rohingya-refugees>

<sup>2654</sup> Yellow Card centre launched in Northern Ireland to strengthen patient safety, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/yellow-card-centre-launched-in-northern-ireland-to-strengthen-patient-safety>

<sup>2655</sup> £200 million to boost NHS resilience and care this winter, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 September 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-to-boost-nhs-resilience-and-care-this-winter>

<sup>2656</sup> UKHSA supports Caribbean Public Health Agency with sequencing equipment, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-supports-caribbean-public-health-agency-with-sequencing-equipment>

<sup>2657</sup> UK funding for humanitarian response to events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-funding-for-humanitarian-response-to-events-in-nagorno-karabakh>

<sup>2658</sup> Government to invest £30 million in innovative technology for NHS, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-30-million-in-innovative-technology-for-nhs>

<sup>2659</sup> Expansion of medical school places to be accelerated to next year, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/expansion-of-medical-school-places-to-be-accelerated-to-next-year>

On 4 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced the government's introduction of a law to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to those born after 1 January 2009.<sup>2660</sup> The proposed legislation strengthens implementation of the WHO FCTC and section A of SDG 3.

On 5 October 2023, the Minister of State Whately announced GBP3 million for technology implementation to improve care outcomes.<sup>2661</sup> Selected projects include digital medication management, promote independence for those receiving at home care, monitor risks for at home patients, and fall prevention for seniors. The funds aim to reduce hospital re-admissions and improve treatment outcomes, addressing section four of SDG 3.

On 12 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State O'Brien, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs Rebecca Pow opened a public consultation on the government's draft law to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to those born after 1 January 2009.<sup>2662</sup> The consultation represents another mandated step to passing and implementing the legislation that will strengthen the WHO FCTC and section A of SDG 3.

On 12 October 2023, the MHRA announced a new expedited processing program for medicinal clinical trials in the lowest risk categories.<sup>2663</sup> The process aids medicine research and development and addresses section B of SDG 3.

On 16 October 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State O'Brien opened a public consultation to improve care for alcohol abuse treatment, advancing section five of SDG 3.<sup>2664</sup>

On 19 October 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Caulfield announced plans to create a national pelvic health service with GBP11 million in resources.<sup>2665</sup> The organization and funding enables early assessment and information for pregnant women on pelvic dysfunction and birth injuries. The focus on reducing maternal injuries addresses section one of SDG 3.

On 23 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak and the Secretary of State of Cleverly announced GBP20 million in additional humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians.<sup>2666</sup> The funding aims to address healthcare needs and promotes section eight of SDG 3.

On 24 October 2023, the Minister of State Whately announced GBP42.6 billion in adult social care grants. The investments support the care workforce and expand access to care. Projects include the Shared Lives program that aids mental health and advances section four of SDG 3.

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<sup>2660</sup> Prime Minister to create 'smokefree generation' by ending cigarette sales to those born on or after 1 January 2009, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-create-smokefree-generation-by-ending-cigarette-sales-to-those-born-on-or-after-1-january-2009>

<sup>2661</sup> Over £3 million to transform technology in adult social care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-3-million-to-transform-technology-in-adult-social-care>

<sup>2662</sup> Government sets out next steps to create 'smokefree generation', Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-to-create-smokefree-generation>

<sup>2663</sup> New streamlined notification scheme for lowest-risk clinical trials marks start of MHRA overhaul of regulation, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-streamlined-notification-scheme-for-lowest-risk-clinical-trials-marks-start-of-mhra-overhaul-of-regulation>

<sup>2664</sup> Government seeks views on improving alcohol treatment services, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 October 2023. Access Date: 9 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-seeks-views-on-improving-alcohol-treatment-services>

<sup>2665</sup> National pelvic health service to support women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-pelvic-health-service-to-support-women>

<sup>2666</sup> Extra £20 million in humanitarian aid doubles UK support to Palestinian civilians, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-20m-in-humanitarian-aid-doubles-uk-support-to-palestinian-civilians>



On 25 October 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Caulfield announced the removal of cost prohibitive screening requirements for same sex couples to access IVF.<sup>2667</sup> The changes also allow those with non-transmissible Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) to pursue IVF. The expanded access to reproductive health services addresses section seven of SDG 3.

On 25 October 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary Caulfield announced nearly GBP5 million to support youth access to mental health care.<sup>2668</sup> Ten community locations will receive funds to provide earlier interventions and mitigate mental crises. The funding advances the mental health promotion component in section four of SDG 3.

On 29 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced GBP100 million for AI initiatives in life sciences.<sup>2669</sup> Proposed projects include dementia treatment and diagnosis and management, addressing section four of SDG 3.

On 30 October 2023, the UK Health Security Agency unveiled a pilot project to monitor infections in 500 care homes across England.<sup>2670</sup> The initiative aims to prevent communicable infection spread and advances section three of SDG 3.

On 30 October 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay announced GBP21 million for an AI initiative to speed accurate lung cancer diagnoses.<sup>2671</sup> The action addresses section four of SDG 3 by aiding reducing premature mortality from a non-communicable disease through early diagnosis.

On 30 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care released a consultation response on extended amendments to the Human Medicines Regulation to promote vaccine access.<sup>2672</sup> The amendment allows non-medical but legally authorised and trained personnel to administer a flu or Covid-19 vaccine. The regulations waive manufacturer and wholesale dealer licences to allow expedited Covid-19 vaccine preparation and labelling, and Covid-19 and flu vaccine transportation. The facilitated access to vaccines and mitigation of communicable diseases addresses sections eight and three of SDG 3.

On 2 November 2023, the Minister of State Freeman announced investments totalling GBP337 million through the International Science Partnerships Fund.<sup>2673</sup> The funding includes GBP21 million allocated towards infectious disease research in Southeast Asia. The research focuses on epidemic and antimicrobial resistance threats and will strengthen health management efforts outlined in section d of SDG 3.

On 6 November 2023, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization and United Nations Simon Manley delivered a speech at the Seventh Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, calling

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<sup>2667</sup> IVF law change to benefit couples with fertility issues, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ivf-law-change-to-benefit-couples-with-fertility-issues>

<sup>2668</sup> Earlier mental health support announced for thousands nationwide, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/earlier-mental-health-support-announced-for-thousands-nationwide>

<sup>2669</sup> New £100 million fund to capitalise on AI's game-changing potential in life sciences and healthcare, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-100-million-fund-to-capitalise-on-ais-game-changing-potential-in-life-sciences-and-healthcare>

<sup>2670</sup> UKHSA announces launch of the Vivaldi social care pilot, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-announces-launch-of-the-vivaldi-social-care-pilot>

<sup>2671</sup> AI to speed up lung cancer diagnosis deployed in NHS hospitals, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-to-speed-up-lung-cancer-diagnosis-deployed-in-nhs-hospitals>

<sup>2672</sup> Amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to support the ongoing delivery of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination: consultation response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023.

<sup>2673</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Science, technology and global health reception, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 November 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/association-of-southeast-asian-nations-asean-science-technology-and-global-health-reception>

for a legally binding Pandemic Accord to mitigate public health threats.<sup>2674</sup> The diplomatic effort in the remarks relates to section D of SDG 3 in the strengthening of health risk management capacity.

On 9 November 2023, the Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper and Minister of State for Transport Jesse Norman introduced new legislation to regulate self-driving vehicles.<sup>2675</sup> The proposed legislation creates a safety framework and empowers government bodies to enforce accountability. The bill establishes legal liability rules introduces standards. The legislation aims to protect drivers and passengers from road accidents and progresses section six of SDG 3.

On 13 November 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State O'Brien announced GBP267 million for substance treatment and recovery services.<sup>2676</sup> The funding will recruit staff and connect former incarcerated individuals with care. The expanded care advances section five of SDG 3.

On 17 November 2023, the Prime Minister's Office announced that women in England will be able to access contraceptive pills at pharmacies without a GP referral.<sup>2677</sup> The action follows additional training for pharmacists and expands access to sexual and reproductive health services as outlined in section seven of SDG 3.

On 20 November 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care, the NHS England, and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry announced a voluntary pricing scheme for branded medicine.<sup>2678</sup> The scheme saves a projected GBP14 billion by increasing medicine affordability, advancing section eight of SDG 3.

On 22 November 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt released the Autumn 2023 Economic Statement and detailed various commitments to advance public universal health care in the United Kingdom.<sup>2679</sup> The statement confirms 2024-25 spending levels at GBP162.5 billion for the NHS. The 2023 Statement adds a further GBP200 million to enhance NHS resilience. In addition, it allocates GBP2.4 billion for the June 2023 NHS Long-term Workforce Plan. This plan includes productivity measures, staff training, an initial increase in the number of medical student placements by 205 in 2024 and doubling of the number of medical student and nursing student spaces annually by 2031.

On 22 November 2023, the released Autumn 2023 Economic Statement will fund the initiative for the first smoke-free generation and a new legislation to work to prevent around 115,000 premature deaths from heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. For mental health, it will create additional 100,000 places over five years in the Individual Support and Placement for Severe Mental Illness program and increase funding to Talking Therapies UK to expand the number of sessions per treatment course by 2028-2029.

On 22 November 2023, the released Autumn 2023 Economic Statement will provide GBP520 million towards advanced manufacturing in life sciences. An incremental GBP10 million from the government and GBP10 million from Scottish Enterprises will fund a world class Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in

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<sup>2674</sup> UK Statement at 7th Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, Government of the United Kingdom (Geneva) 7 November 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023.

<sup>2675</sup> New laws to safely roll out self-driving vehicles across British roads, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-safely-roll-out-self-driving-vehicles-across-british-roads>

<sup>2676</sup> £267 million to boost local drug and alcohol treatment, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 November 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023.

<sup>2677</sup> Women in England to receive contraceptive pills at pharmacies, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 November 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-in-england-to-receive-contraceptive-pills-at-pharmacies--2>

<sup>2678</sup> Landmark deal to boost nation's health and save NHS £14 billion, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-deal-to-boost-nations-health-and-save-nhs-14-billion>

<sup>2679</sup> Minister of the Exchequer Delivers Autumn 2023 Economic Statement, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 22 November 2023. Access Date: 11 December 2023. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6568909c5936bb00133167cc/E02982473\\_Autumn\\_Statement\\_Nov\\_23\\_Accessible\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6568909c5936bb00133167cc/E02982473_Autumn_Statement_Nov_23_Accessible_Final.pdf)

Oligonucleotides. The Statement also allocates GBP5 million to the Fleming Centre leading up to the centenary of penicillin's discovery. It provides GBP51 million to Our Future Health to genotype one million patients and to recruit more volunteers for the same. They will also look at individualized therapies for children with ultra-rare diseases. These measures collectively address SDG 3's targets including, newborn and child health (section 2) mental health (section 4) UHC, financial risk protection, as well as availability and affordability of medicines and vaccines (section eight) and reduction of tobacco use (section A).

On 29 November 2023, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Victoria Atkins announced GBP20 million to expand HIV testing to 46 new sites.<sup>2680</sup> The testing scheme aids early detection leading to better treatment outcomes and helps prevent transmission. The funding addresses section three of SDG 3 and its commitment to end the AIDS epidemic.

On 29 November 2023, the MHRA's Criminal Enforcement Unit seized thousands of illicit drugs including opioids. The raid prevented substance abuse in line with section five of SDG 3.

On 30 November 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Caulfield announced a suicide surveillance system.<sup>2681</sup> The system will provide data to inform creation of a national suicide alert system aimed at prevention. The system aids premature mortality prevention, advancing section four of SDG 3.

On 1 December 2023, the Export Credit Agency announced GBP226 million to support the Iraqi Government in developing a 350km drainage network and fifteen wastewater stations, providing a projected 25,000 households with clean water access.<sup>2682</sup> By mitigating contamination and reducing water borne disease spread, this funding addresses section three and section nine of SDG 3.

On 2 December 2023, the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Michelle Donelan and Minister of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Andrew Griffith announced funding of GBP100 million for vulnerable countries tackling climate change. GBP40 million of this package has been promised towards climate-health related risks including GBP18 million towards a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems Programme, GBP20 million for a newly approved Climate and Health Research Programme, and increased funding to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to develop Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services.<sup>2683</sup> This funding will contribute to the advancement of sections three, C, and D of SDG 3 by increasing the resiliency of healthcare services, and strengthening the capacity of developing countries in the face of national health risks such as cholera or malaria spikes following a climate disaster.

On 5 December 2023, Secretary of State Donelan and Minister of State Griffith announced a GBP2 billion National Vision for Engineering Biology which includes the application of engineering principles to deliver new medical therapies, create new treatments and continue delivering innovative vaccines, among others.<sup>2684</sup>

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<sup>2680</sup> New research into expansion of life-saving HIV testing programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023.

<sup>2681</sup> National system launched to rapidly identify trends in suicides, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 November 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-system-launched-to-rapidly-identify-trends-in-suicides>

<sup>2682</sup> UK businesses to build over 350km of new critical drainage system in Iraq, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-businesses-to-build-over-350km-of-new-critical-drainage-system-in-iraq>

<sup>2683</sup> £100 million for vulnerable countries tackling climate change, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100m-for-vulnerable-countries-tackling-climate-change>

<sup>2684</sup> Government publishes £2 billion vision for engineering biology to revolutionise medicine, food and environmental protection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-2-billion-vision-for-engineering-biology-to-revolutionise-medicine-food-and-environmental-protection>

The proposed plan encompasses vaccine development and medical research and development contributing to section B of SDG 3.

On 5 December 2023, Minister of State Mitchell announced GBP5.5 million of additional funding to Somalia in support of the humanitarian response to El Niño.<sup>2685</sup> The aid will provide health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation assistance flood-affected communities. This contribution will help in the management of Somalia's current national health emergency, in line with section D of SDG 3.

On 7 December 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Health and Social Care Andrea Leadsom announced plans to broaden the scope of pharmacist-provided care to improve primary care access.<sup>2686</sup> The commitment to improve general practice and access to primary care appointments advances UHC goals.

On 11 December 2023, the Secretary of State Atkins introduced legislation to regulate physician associates and anaesthesia associates by setting standards for practice, education and training.<sup>2687</sup> The regulation aims to improve care safety in line with UHC.

On 11 December 2023, the Secretary of State for the Home Department James Cleverly launched a public consultation on the implementation of Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics.<sup>2688</sup> The proposed safe zones protect access to reproductive healthcare services as outlined in section seven of SDG 3.

On 28 December 2023, the Parliamentary Under Secretary Leadsom announced a new smoke-free film campaign from the NHS to encourage smokers to quit and deter youth smoking.<sup>2689</sup> The proposed campaign and subsequent messaging will contribute to advancing section A of SDG 3.

On 2 January 2024, the Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills Martyn Oliver introduced a mental health awareness training programme for school inspectors.<sup>2690</sup> The new training module includes support from Mental Health First Aid England, increasing prevention to align with section four of SDG 3.

On 5 January 2024, the Minister of State in the Department of Health and Social Care Andrew Stephenson announced the NHS rollout of digital imaging for cancer diagnosis as per a recommendation by the UK National Screening Committee.<sup>2691</sup> Through the use of digital pathology in cancer screening, faster treatment times align as a contribution towards section four of SDG 3.

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<sup>2685</sup> UK announces further humanitarian support in response to El Niño in Somalia, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-further-humanitarian-support-in-response-to-el-nino-in-somalia>

<sup>2686</sup> Patients and pharmacies to benefit from changes to supervision, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 7 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/patients-and-pharmacies-to-benefit-from-changes-to-supervision>

<sup>2687</sup> Patient safety boost as medical associates to be regulated, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/patient-safety-boost-as-medical-associates-to-be-regulated>

<sup>2688</sup> Government consults on Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-consults-on-safe-access-zones-around-abortion-clinics>

<sup>2689</sup> Smokers encouraged to quit this new year for their health, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 December 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smokers-encouraged-to-quit-this-new-year-for-their-health>

<sup>2690</sup> Sir Martyn Oliver begins term at Ofsted with mental health awareness training for inspectors, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 2 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-martyn-oliver-begins-term-at-ofsted-with-mental-health-awareness-training-for-inspectors>

<sup>2691</sup> Digital pathology to improve cancer screening and save lives, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 2 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-pathology-to-improve-cancer-screening-and-save-lives>

On 9 January 2024, the MHRA set out a Regulatory Roadmap to develop new regulations for the use of medical devices in the UK.<sup>2692</sup> The framework encompasses technologies such as implantable devices, healthcare AI and software, and diagnostics for early detection and prevention of disease.

On 17 January 2024, Secretary of State Atkins and Parliamentary Under Secretary Caulfield announced the 2024 Women's Health Priorities.<sup>2693</sup> The priorities include improved menstrual and gynecological care, women's health hubs, maternity care, and support for victims of sexual violence. The priorities address goals under sections one and seven of SDG 3.

On 29 January 2024, it was announced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that disposable vapes will be banned in the UK as part of a government plan to tackle the rise in youth vaping in an effort to protect children's health.<sup>2694</sup> The ban contributes to section A of SDG 3.

On 30 January 2024, the MHRA worked with law enforcement to seize more than 15.5 million doses of illegally traded medicines.<sup>2695</sup> This seizure prevented the dispersal of opioids and illegal unlicensed medicines to the public, preventing substance abuse and thus keeping in line with section five of SDG 3.

On 5 February 2024, Minister of State Mitchell announced GBP100 million in aid for a new humanitarian aid fund targeted towards women and children and increasing access to essential health services in Ethiopia.<sup>2696</sup> The Ending Preventable Deaths Fund directly targets sections 1 and 2 of SDG 3. The fund also supports 75 health centres that aim to prevent communicable disease spread and malnutrition in line with section three of SDG 3. aims to. The additional focus on family planning and sexual health as well as childhood vaccination access contributes to sections seven and B of SDG 3.

On 14 February 2024, Minister Stephenson announced a GBP10 million investment for eight tech companies creating new medical technology that can help patients treat a wide range of conditions including Alzheimer's, stroke and cancer.<sup>2697</sup> The development of the technology is in alignment with treating non-communicable diseases under section four of SDG 3.

On 20 February 2024, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Barclay announced that the Environment Agency water inspections will now increase fourfold in an effort to crack down on water sector pollution.<sup>2698</sup> This increase in regulatory compliance to prevent waterway contamination is in line with section nine of SDG 3.

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<sup>2692</sup> Regulatory Roadmap points the way ahead for new measures to support safe access to medical technology including AI and diagnostics, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulatory-roadmap-points-the-way-ahead-for-new-measures-to-support-safe-access-to-medical-technology-including-ai-and-diagnostics>

<sup>2693</sup> Health Secretary announces new women's health priorities for 2024, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 January 2024. Access date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-new-womens-health-priorities-for-2024>

<sup>2694</sup> Disposable vapes banned to protect children's health, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disposable-vapes-banned-to-protect-childrens-health>

<sup>2695</sup> Illegal medicines worth more than £30 million seized in the UK in 2023, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/illegal-medicines-worth-more-than-30-million-seized-in-the-uk-in-2023>

<sup>2696</sup> UK announces £100 million of new aid for over 3 million vulnerable people in Ethiopia as humanitarian crisis deepens, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-100-million-of-new-aid-for-over-three-million-vulnerable-people-in-ethiopia-as-humanitarian-crisis-deepens>

<sup>2697</sup> Funding for game-changing tech which could destroy cancers and predict disease, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-game-changing-tech-which-could-destroy-cancers-and-predict-disease>

<sup>2698</sup> Inspection surge to crack down on water sector pollution, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inspection-surge-to-crack-down-on-water-sector-pollution>

On 25 February 2024, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs David Cameron announced GBP4.25 million in aid to support the United Nations Population Fund in providing sexual and reproductive healthcare services in Gaza.<sup>2699</sup> The tailored funding will support women who are unable to give birth safely as well as provide hygiene and sanitary kits, directly contributing to sections one and seven of SDG 3.

On 29 February 2024, the UK Health Security Agency launched a multi-media marketing campaign across England to remind parents of their child's missed vaccinations due to rising measles cases.<sup>2700</sup> The campaign directly addresses the rising threat of measles, an extremely contagious disease, bolstering mitigation efforts concerning section three of SDG 3.

On 4 March 2024, Parliamentary Under Secretary Caulfield announced, GBP10 million in funding to support suicide prevention services.<sup>2701</sup> The financial support charities and organizations facilitates premature mortality prevention, advancing section four of SDG 3.

On 4 March 2024, the Royal Navy seized GBP300 million in drugs.<sup>2702</sup> The seizure of illegal drugs aided in the prevention of substance abuse within the UK, aligning with section five of SDG 3.

On 10 March 2024, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt introduced the 2024 Spring Budget including an investment of GBP35 million boost maternity safety and fund specialist training for staff and midwives.<sup>2703</sup> An additional GBP9 million investment will be dedicated to preventing avoidable brain injuries during childbirth. The two investment goals align closely with sections one and two of SDG 3.

On 13 March 2024, the Minister of State in the Cabinet Office for Veterans Affairs Johnny Mercer announced the launch of a new campaign to help improve veterans access to specialized healthcare.<sup>2704</sup> The campaign prioritizes diagnoses of veteran-related mental and physical ailments and supports sections four and eight of SDG 3.

On 19 March 2024, the Department of Transport announced a GBP38.3 million investment into improving the safety of 17 high-risk roads across the country.<sup>2705</sup> The planned improvements to signage, surfaces, pedestrian crossings, and intersections aims to reduce fatal and serious road-traffic related injuries, contributing to section six of SDG 3.

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<sup>2699</sup> UK steps up health support for women and girls in Gaza, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 February 2024. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-steps-up-health-support-for-women-and-girls-in-gaza>

<sup>2700</sup> Marketing campaign launches to drive up childhood vaccinations, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/marketing-campaign-launches-to-drive-up-childhood-vaccinations>

<sup>2701</sup> £10 million to support suicide prevention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-to-support-suicide-prevention>

<sup>2702</sup> Nearly £300m of drugs seized by Royal Navy in the Caribbean Sea, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 9 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nearly-300m-of-drugs-seized-by-royal-navy-in-the-caribbean-sea>

<sup>2703</sup> £35 million investment to boost maternity safety, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 March 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/35-million-investment-to-boost-maternity-safety>

<sup>2704</sup> Government delivers further expansion of health services to former armed forces personnel, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-delivers-further-expansion-of-health-services-to-former-armed-forces-personnel>

<sup>2705</sup> £38 million boost for safer roads across England, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/38-million-boost-for-safer-roads-across-england>

On 28 March 2024, Parliamentary Under Secretary Leadsom announced new actions being taken to support more efficient patient care by allowing pharmacy technicians, dental therapists and hygienists to supply and administer certain medicines.<sup>2706</sup> The improved access to medications advances UHC.

On 4 April 2024, Minister of State Mitchell announced a GBP27 million in funding to support family planning and care for women and babies in Tanzania.<sup>2707</sup> The government projects that the programs will prevent 1,400 maternal deaths as well as combatting communicable diseases. The funds contribute to sections one, two, three and seven of SDG 3.

On 5 April 2024, Secretary of State Atkins announced the UK will be donating GBP2 million of lifesaving medical equipment including ventilators, monitors and pumps to Ukraine.<sup>2708</sup> The packages of medical supplies will allow medical services to be administered to patients in Ukraine, supporting section eight of SDG 3.

On 6 April 2024, Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps announced the seizure of GBP16.7 million in drugs by the Royal Marines.<sup>2709</sup> The seizure of illegal drugs aided in the prevention of substance abuse within the UK, aligning with section five of SDG 3.

On 13 April 2024, Secretary of State Shapps announced that Royal Navy warship seized GBP33 million in drugs.<sup>2710</sup> The seizure of illegal drugs aided in the prevention of substance abuse within the UK, aligning with section five of SDG 3.

On 16 April 2024, Parliamentary Under Secretary Caulfield announced that the Department of Health and Social Care initiated a review of the duty of candour system.<sup>2711</sup> The newly launched call for evidence aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the current system in ensuring that healthcare providers disclose medical errors openly and promptly to patients and their families. The reassessment of the duty of candour underscores the government's commitment to patient safety, aligning with section eight of SDG 3.

On 16 April 2024, Minister of State Mitchell announced the UK will pledge GBP100 million in humanitarian aid to Ethiopia.<sup>2712</sup> The funding will be primarily aimed at addressing severe malnutrition among children and mothers, improving access to emergency healthcare, and enhancing sanitation and water supply, directly supporting sections two, three and nine of SDG 3.

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<sup>2706</sup> New powers for dental and pharmacy staff to free up appointments, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 March 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-for-dental-and-pharmacy-staff-to-free-up-appointments>

<sup>2707</sup> UK announces life-saving support for women and girls in Tanzania, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 April 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-life-saving-support-for-women-and-girls-in-tanzania>

<sup>2708</sup> UK donates £2 million lifesaving healthcare package to Ukraine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 April 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-donates-2-million-lifesaving-healthcare-package-to-ukraine>

<sup>2709</sup> Nearly £17 million of drugs seized by Royal Navy in the Caribbean Sea, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 April 2024. Access Date: 27 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nearly-17-million-of-drugs-seized-by-royal-navy-in-the-caribbean-sea>

<sup>2710</sup> £33 Million of drugs seized by Royal Navy in the Middle East, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/33-million-of-drugs-seized-by-royal-navy-in-the-middle-east>

<sup>2711</sup> Government review to create a more open healthcare system, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-review-to-create-a-more-open-healthcare-system>

<sup>2712</sup> UK pledges support for vulnerable communities in Ethiopia, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 28 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-vulnerable-communities-in-ethiopia>

On 8 May 2024, the UK government published its second five-year national action plan outlining its strategy for combatting antimicrobial resistance.<sup>2713</sup> The action plan aims to protect people and animals and reduces the need for and unintentional exposure to antimicrobials.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. The United Kingdom advanced strong actions towards UHC, including improving access to healthcare services and the accessibility of prescription medication. The United Kingdom also addressed all 13 sections of SDG 3.

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

*Analysts: Jacob Rudolph and Siobhan Mehrotra*

### **United States: +1**

United States has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 26 May 2023, the Food and Drug Administration reached a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.<sup>2714</sup> The partnership will expedite and improve access to medicines and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 5 June 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) held an in-person Sickle Cell Disease Data Summit with organizations supporting a coordinated response to the disease.<sup>2715</sup> This summit marks an effort in addressing sickle cell disease through enhanced data collection and collaboration, contributing to the goals of UHC and aligning with SDG 3's section four focus on reducing illness from non-communicable diseases.

On 8 June 2023, the HHS released its first-ever Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Federal Implementation Plan.<sup>2716</sup> This comprehensive strategy aims to address and reduce the impact of STIs nationwide, supporting the advancement of UHC and aligning with SDG 3's section 7 targets on sexual and reproductive health.

On 9 June 2023, the Biden Administration announced significant cost reductions for 43 prescription drugs as part of the cost-saving measures under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.<sup>2717</sup> This measure, aimed at making essential medications more affordable, advances UHC by improving access to healthcare.

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<sup>2713</sup> Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029, the Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-action-plan-for-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029>

<sup>2714</sup> MHRA announces new recognition routes to facilitate safe access to new medicines with seven international partners, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-announces-new-recognition-routes-to-facilitate-safe-access-to-new-medicines-with-seven-international-partners>

<sup>2715</sup> Readout of HHS In-Person Sickle Cell Disease Data Summit: Organizations Supporting Coordinated Response to Disease, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/05/readout-hhs-in-person-sickle-cell-disease-data-summit-organizations-supporting-coordinated-response-disease.html>

<sup>2716</sup> HHS Releases First-Ever STI Federal Implementation Plan, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/08/hhs-releases-first-ever-sti-federal-implementation-plan.html>

<sup>2717</sup> Biden Administration Announces Savings on 43 Prescription Drugs as Part of Cost-Saving Measures from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/09/biden-administration-announces-savings-43-prescription-drugs-part-cost-saving-measures-president-bidens-inflation-reduction-act.html>



On 9 June 2023, the HHS announced a new USD15 million loan repayment program to strengthen the pediatric health care workforce.<sup>2718</sup> This initiative aims to bolster the availability and quality of pediatric care, particularly in underserved areas, supporting the goals of UHC and aligning with SDG 3's section two focus on child health and well-being.

On 12 June 2023, the Biden-Harris administration announced the introduction of new tools to lower prescription drug costs for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.<sup>2719</sup> This initiative, aimed at making essential medications more affordable, supports the advancement of UHC by addressing the healthcare needs of vulnerable populations.

On 13 June 2023, the Biden-Harris administration announced the expansion of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program postpartum coverage in New York, making it the 35th state, along with the District of Columbia, to offer full-year coverage after pregnancy.<sup>2720</sup> This expansion enhances healthcare support for new mothers, aligning with Universal Health Coverage goals and supporting SDG 3's section one emphasis on maternal health.

On 14 June 2023, the HHS announced the allocation of nearly USD9 million to increase the number of substance use disorder clinicians in underserved communities.<sup>2721</sup> This funding initiative is aimed at enhancing treatment capabilities for substance use disorders, directly supporting the Universal Health Coverage goals and aligning with SDG 3's section A on strengthening the treatment and prevention of substance abuse.

On 21 June 2023, the Biden-Harris administration announced a public-private partnership to expand access to contraceptive care.<sup>2722</sup> This collaborative effort aims to enhance reproductive health services, supporting the advancement of UHC aligning with SDG 3's section seven objectives on sexual and reproductive health.

On 23 June 2023, the HHS announced the allocation of USD69 million for teen pregnancy prevention opportunities.<sup>2723</sup> This initiative aims to enhance educational and healthcare services for adolescents, contributing to the goals of UHC and aligning with SDG 3's section seven focus on promoting sexual and reproductive health.

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<sup>2718</sup> HHS Announces New \$15 Million Loan Repayment Program to Strengthen Pediatric Health Care Workforce, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/09/hhs-announces-new-15-million-loan-repayment-program-strengthen-pediatric-health-care-workforce.html>

<sup>2719</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Tools to Lower Prescription Drug Costs for Low-Income Seniors and People with Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/12/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-tools-lower-prescription-drug-costs-low-income-seniors-people-disabilities.html>

<sup>2720</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces New York Medicaid CHIP Postpartum Coverage Expansion; 35 States, DC Offer Full Year Coverage After Pregnancy, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/13/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-york-medicaid-chip-postpartum-coverage-expansion-35-states-dc-offer-full-year-coverage-after-pregnancy.html>

<sup>2721</sup> HHS Announces Nearly \$9 Million to Increase the Number of Substance Use Disorder Clinicians in Underserved Communities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/14/hhs-announces-nearly-9-million-to-increase-the-number-of-substance-use-disorder-clinicians-in-underserved-communities.html>

<sup>2722</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Public-Private Partnership to Expand Access to Contraceptive Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/21/biden-harris-administration-announces-public-private-partnership-expand-access-contraceptive-care.html>

<sup>2723</sup> HHS Announces \$69 Million for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Opportunities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/23/hhs-announces-69-million-for-teen-pregnancy-prevention-opportunities.html>

On 24 June 2023, the Biden-Harris administration reaffirmed its commitment to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights globally.<sup>2724</sup> This pledge, highlighting a focus on comprehensive healthcare, aligns with the UHC objectives and supports SDG 3 by ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services.

On 29 June 2023, the HHS released a draft framework designed to accelerate efforts in helping Americans avoid and quit smoking.<sup>2725</sup> This initiative tackles one of the leading causes of preventable diseases, directly supports the advancement of Universal Health Coverage and aligns with SDG 3, particularly in strengthening the implementation of tobacco control measures in section A.

On 29 June 2023, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra acknowledged the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation for older and immunocompromised adults to receive the Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine.<sup>2726</sup> This decision aims to enhance protection against communicable diseases in vulnerable populations, aligning with the goals of Universal Health Coverage and supporting SDG 3 section four targets.

On 30 June 2023, the HHS announced a series of actions to lower healthcare costs through the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, including a new provision allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.<sup>2727</sup> This initiative represents a step towards reducing financial barriers to healthcare, thereby supporting the advancement of UHC.

On 13 July 2023, the HHS announced the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the first daily over-the-counter oral contraceptive.<sup>2728</sup> This decision represents an advancement in women's reproductive health, increasing accessibility to birth control and reinforcing the commitment to Universal Health Coverage and SDG 3 section seven targets for sexual and reproductive health services.

On 13 July 2023, the CDC announced the launch of the Bridge Access Program, set to provide free Covid-19 vaccines and treatments to uninsured and underinsured adults starting fall 2023.<sup>2729</sup> This program aims to improve public health response and accessibility, enhancing UHC and SDG 3 section three targets to combat communicable diseases.

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<sup>2724</sup> Biden-Harris Administration's Commitment to Advancing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Globally, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 24 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/24/biden-harris-administrations-commitment-advancing-sexual-reproductive-health-rights-globally.html>

<sup>2725</sup> Fact Sheet: HHS Releases Draft Framework to Accelerate Efforts to Help Americans Avoid and Quit Smoking, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/29/fact-sheet-hhs-releases-draft-framework-accelerate-efforts-help-americans-avoid-and-quit-smoking.html>

<sup>2726</sup> Statement: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on CDC's Historic Recommendation Allowing Older, Immunocompromised Adults Receive RSV Vaccine, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/29/statement-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-cdcs-historic-recommendation-allowing-older-immunocompromised-adults-receive-rsv-vaccine.html>

<sup>2727</sup> HHS Announces Actions to Lower Healthcare Costs, Allow Medicare to Negotiate Lower Drug Prices, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/06/30/hhs-announces-actions-lower-healthcare-costs-allow-medicare-negotiate-lower-drug-prices.html>

<sup>2728</sup> Statement: HHS Secretary Becerra on FDA Approval of First Daily Over-The-Counter Oral Contraceptive, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/13/statement-hhs-secretary-becerra-fda-approval-first-daily-over-counter-oral-contraceptive.html>

<sup>2729</sup> CDC to Launch 'Bridge' Access Program in Fall 2023 to Provide Free COVID-19 Vaccines, Treatments to Uninsured, Underinsured Adults, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/13/cdc-launch-bridge-access-program-fall-2023-provide-free-covid-19-vaccines-treatments-uninsured-underinsured-adults.html>

On 19 July 2023, the HHS distributed USD47.8 million in grant funding for programs expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder and addressing other facets of overdose and substance use.<sup>2730</sup> This initiative represents a step towards enhancing healthcare services for substance use disorders, aligning with the goals of UHC the SDG 3 section 5 targets.

On 20 July 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved requests from California and Kentucky to provide essential behavioural health services.<sup>2731</sup> This decision supports the expansion of mental health and substance use disorder services, furthering the commitment to Universal Health Coverage and addressing key aspects of SDG 3.

On 25 July 2023, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury announced proposed rules to strengthen the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.<sup>2732</sup> This collaborative effort aims to enhance mental health and substance use disorder benefits for Americans, promoting equitable healthcare access in line with UHC goals.

On 26 July 2023, the HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), invested USD11 million to expand medical residencies in rural communities.<sup>2733</sup> This initiative aims to enhance healthcare services in underserved areas, contributing to the advancement of UHC.

On 31 July 2023, the HHS announced the Medicare Dementia Care Model, aimed at enhancing dementia care for Medicare beneficiaries.<sup>2734</sup> This initiative, led by Secretary Becerra, focuses on comprehensive care planning and caregiver support, aligning with UHC objectives under SDG 3. It represents a concrete action by the United States to improve healthcare accessibility and life expectancy in alignment with G7 commitments.

On 10 August 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a USD100 million initiative to grow the nursing workforce.<sup>2735</sup> This investment, aimed at addressing the critical shortage of nurses, aligns with SDG 3 by enhancing the capacity and quality of healthcare personnel, thereby contributing to the improvement of health systems and ensuring quality care for all.

On 11 August 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded USD88 million in grants to safeguard youth mental health and expand access to treatment for substance use disorders.<sup>2736</sup> This funding aims to address

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<sup>2730</sup> HHS Distributes \$47.8 Million in Grant Funding for Programs Expanding Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Addressing Other Facets of Overdose, Substance Use, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 19 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/19/hhs-distributes-47-8-million-grant-funding-programs-expanding-access-medications-opioid-use-disorder-addressing-other-facets-overdose-substance-use.html>

<sup>2731</sup> CMS Approves California, Kentucky Requests to Provide Essential Behavioral Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/20/cms-approves-california-kentucky-requests-provide-essential-behavioral-health.html>

<sup>2732</sup> Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services, Treasury Announce Proposed Rules to Strengthen Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/25/departments-labor-health-human-services-treasury-announce-proposed-rules-strengthen-mental-health-parity-addiction-equity-act.html>

<sup>2733</sup> HHS Invests \$11 Million to Expand Medical Residencies in Rural Communities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 26 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/26/hhs-invests-11-million-expand-medical-residencies-rural-communities.html>

<sup>2734</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Medicare Dementia Care Model, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 31 July 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/07/31/biden-harris-administration-announces-medicare-dementia-care-model.html>

<sup>2735</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$100 Million to Grow Nursing Workforce, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/08/10/biden-harris-administration-announces-100-million-grow-nursing-workforce.html>

<sup>2736</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$88 Million in Grants to Safeguard Youth Mental Health, Expand Access to Treatment for Substance Disorders, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 11 August 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/08/11/biden-harris-administration-awards-88-million-grants-safeguard-youth-mental-health-expand-access-treatment-substance-disorders.html>

critical mental health issues among young people and substance abuse challenges. It supports the strengthening and prevention of substance abuse and promotes mental health and well-being under section five and four of SDG 3.

On 21 August 2023, the CMS issued draft guidance for a new program that allows people on Medicare to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs through monthly payments.<sup>2737</sup> This initiative aims to make medication costs more manageable for Medicare beneficiaries, as well as enhancing access to essential medicines and reducing financial barriers in healthcare.

On 23 August 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded more than USD64 million in grants to fund mental health services and awareness training in United States territories.<sup>2738</sup> This investment, dedicated to improving mental health resources and education, promotes mental health and well-being, particularly through enhancing public awareness and access to mental health services.

On 25 August 2023, the HHS awarded USD23 million to support evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.<sup>2739</sup> This funding, aimed at educating and empowering adolescents, aligns with SDG 3 by focusing on section seven on sexual and reproductive health education, thereby contributing to the reduction of teen pregnancy rates and promoting health and well-being among young people.

On 8 September 2023, the HHS announced details of its partnership with Regeneron to develop life-saving monoclonal antibodies.<sup>2740</sup> This collaboration, focusing on advancing therapeutic solutions, aligns with SDG 3 by contributing to the development and research of treatments and medicines.

On 12 September 2023, Secretary Becerra issued a statement following the CDC's recommendation of updated Covid-19 vaccines.<sup>2741</sup> This statement underscores the US commitment to public health and safety, aligning with SDG 3 by promoting widespread vaccination under section three.

On 15 September 2023, the HHS invested USD8 million to improve healthcare access by training new physicians to care for individuals with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency.<sup>2742</sup> This initiative, aimed at enhancing equitable healthcare, focuses on reducing health disparities and ensuring inclusive and quality healthcare for all.

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<sup>2737</sup> CMS Issues Draft Guidance for New Program to Allow People with Medicare to Pay Out-of-Pocket for Prescription Drug Costs in Monthly Payments, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 August 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/08/21/cms-issues-draft-guidance-new-program-allow-people-medicare-pay-out-of-pocket-prescription-drug-costs-monthly-payments.html>

<sup>2738</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$64 Million in Grants to Fund Mental Health Services and Awareness Training Across United States and Territories, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/08/23/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-than-64-million-grants-fund-mental-health-services-awareness-training-united-states-territories.html>

<sup>2739</sup> HHS Awards \$23 Million to Support Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 25 August 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/08/25/hhs-awards-23-million-support-evidence-based-teen-pregnancy-prevention.html>

<sup>2740</sup> HHS Announces Details of Partnership with Regeneron to Develop Life-Saving Monoclonal Antibodies, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 8 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/08/hhs-announces-details-partnership-regeneron-develop-life-saving-mono-clonal-antibodies.html>

<sup>2741</sup> Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Following CDC's Recommendation of Updated COVID-19 Vaccines, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 12 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/12/statement-from-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-following-cdcs-recommendation-updated-covid-19-vaccines.html>

<sup>2742</sup> HHS Invests \$8 Million to Improve Health Care Access by Training New Physicians to Care for Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Limited English Proficiency, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 15 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/15/hhs-invests-8-million-improve-health-care-access-training-new-physicians-care-individuals-disabilities-individuals-limited-english-proficiency.html>

On 20 September 2023, the HHS awarded USD45 million in grants to expand access to care for people with long Covid.<sup>2743</sup> This funding, dedicated to addressing the long-term health impacts of Covid-19, supports UHC by enhancing health systems' capacity to provide comprehensive care for chronic conditions arising from infectious diseases.

On 18 September 2023, Secretary Becerra signed a Statement of Intent on Japan-US Health Security Collaboration with the Japanese Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Keizo Takemi.<sup>2744</sup> This agreement will allow the countries to continue to work together on planning, developing, and distributing emergency medicines.

On 20 September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded USD600 million to bolster U.S. manufacturing of Covid-19 tests and announced the re-opening of COVIDTests.gov.<sup>2745</sup> This investment, aimed at enhancing testing capabilities, aligns with SDG 3's section three target of combating infectious diseases and strengthening capacity for early warning of global and national health risk.

On 21 September 2023, Secretary Becerra delivered remarks at the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage.<sup>2746</sup> His participation underscores the US commitment to global health initiatives, particularly aligning with SDG 3's objective of achieving universal health coverage. This engagement highlights the US's dedication to collaborating on international health goals, contributing to the global discourse on accessible, quality health care for all.

On 21 September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded nearly USD130 million to expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics across the U.S.<sup>2747</sup> This funding, aimed at enhancing mental health services, aligns with expanding UHC by ensuring accessible and quality mental health care for all.

On 25 September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced an allocation of over USD200 million to support youth mental health.<sup>2748</sup> This funding is dedicated to enhancing mental health resources for young people, aiming to promote mental well-being and prevent mental health issues among the youth under section four.

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<sup>2743</sup> HHS Awards \$45 Million in Grants to Expand Access to Care for People with Long COVID, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/20/hhs-awards-45-million-grants-expand-access-care-people-long-covid.html>

<sup>2744</sup> アメリカ合衆国保健福祉省との: 日米健康安全保障連携に関する意図表明文書に署名, 厚生労働省 (Tokyo) 18 September 2023.

Access Date: 24 December 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_35744.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_35744.html)

<sup>2745</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$600 Million to Bolster US Manufacturing of COVID-19 Tests and Announces the Re-Opening of COVIDTests.gov, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/20/biden-harris-administration-awards-600-million-bolster-us-manufacturing-covid-19-tests-announces-re-opening-covidtestsgov.html>

<sup>2746</sup> Remarks by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/21/remarks-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting-universal-health-coverage.html>

<sup>2747</sup> Approaching 60th Anniversary of Community Mental Health Act of 1963, the Biden-Harris Administration Awards Nearly \$130 Million to Expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Across US, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/21/approaching-60th-anniversary-community-mental-health-act-1963-biden-harris-administration-awards-nearly-130-million-expand-certified-community-behavioral-health-clinics-across-us.html>

<sup>2748</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$200 Million To Support Youth Mental Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 25 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/25/biden-harris-administration-announces-more-than-200-million-support-youth-mental-health.html>

On 27 September 2023, Secretary Becerra announced a funding of over USD103 million to enhance maternal health.<sup>2749</sup> The funding supports expanded access to maternal healthcare, addresses maternal mental health and substance use disorders, and initiates a public education campaign on postpartum depression. This investment aims to alleviate the maternal health crisis and is part of a comprehensive strategy to improve maternal health, particularly in underserved communities, aligning with SDG 3's section one goals of reducing global maternal mortality and ensuring healthy lives.

On 27 September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded more than USD230 million for suicide prevention and behavioral health care programs in at-risk communities.<sup>2750</sup> This investment aims to promote SDG 3 section four on mental health and to reduce a major cause of premature and preventable deaths.

On 27 September 2023, the HHS announced a child welfare package to expand support and promote equity within the child welfare system.<sup>2751</sup> This initiative aims to improve conditions and support within the child welfare system, contributing to reduce child mortality rates and advancing the health outcomes of young populations. This funding aligns with SDG 3's section two target of ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under five.

On 28 September 2023, the HHS awarded USD2.1 million to the Health Equity Leadership and Development Initiative.<sup>2752</sup> This funding is aimed at enhancing leadership skills in health equity, particularly in underserved communities. This initiative supports broader health improvement goals by fostering awareness and understanding of health equity issues, crucial for long-term systemic improvements in health outcomes and equity.

On 29 September 2023, the HHS took action to ensure 12 months of mandatory continuous coverage for children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.<sup>2753</sup> By securing consistent access to healthcare for children, this policy directly contributes to reducing child mortality rates and improving health outcomes for young populations under section two of SDG 3.

On 29 September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced over USD330 million in new funding to advance the Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative, aimed at improving health care research, treatment, and

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<sup>2749</sup> As Part of HHS' Maternal Health Day of Action, the Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$103 Million and Launches New Initiatives to Address Maternal Health Crisis, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/27/part-hhs-maternal-health-day-action-biden-harris-administration-announces-more-than-103-million-launches-new-initiatives-address-maternal-health-crisis.html>

<sup>2750</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Awards More than \$230 Million for Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health Care Programs for At-Risk Communities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/27/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-than-230-million-suicide-prevention-behavioral-health-care-programs-at-risk-communities.html>

<sup>2751</sup> HHS Announces Historic Child Welfare Package to Expand Support and Equity in Child Welfare System, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/27/hhs-announces-historic-child-welfare-package-expand-support-equity-child-welfare-system.html>

<sup>2752</sup> HHS Awards \$2.1 Million for Health Equity Leadership Development Initiative, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/28/hhs-awards-2-1-million-health-equity-leadership-development-initiative.html>

<sup>2753</sup> HHS Takes Action to Provide 12 Months of Mandatory Continuous Coverage for Children in Medicaid and CHIP, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/29/hhs-takes-action-provide-12-months-mandatory-continuous-coverage-children-medicaid-chip.html>

outcomes.<sup>2754</sup> This investment aligns with SDG 3 targets by enhancing research and treatment capabilities for cancer, contributing to the goal of supporting research development of medicines.

On 4 October 2023, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced nearly USD35 million in grants for comprehensive behavioral health care and HIV prevention and care in historically underserved populations.<sup>2755</sup> This funding aligns with several SDG3 targets such as section three in addressing epidemics, section five on substance abuse, and section 8 on achieving universal health coverage.

On 13 October 2023, the HHS selected initial vaccine candidates under Project NextGen, awarding over USD500 million to advance the development of vaccines and therapeutics.<sup>2756</sup> This initiative seeks to bolster the nation's capabilities to combat infectious diseases, in line with the G7's commitment to health security and SDG 3's aim of ending epidemics and supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines.

On 2 November 2023, the CMS announced the expansion of behavioral health services coverage for Medicare recipients and the enhancement of hospital price transparency.<sup>2757</sup> These actions, included in the 2024 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System, aim to improve access to behavioral health care and make hospital charges more understandable to the public. The expansion enhances access to UHC by reducing financial barriers.

On 3 November 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced actions to enhance healthcare in rural America.<sup>2758</sup> These measures include expanding affordable health coverage under the Affordable Care Act and Inflation Reduction Act, maintaining rural hospital operations, strengthening the rural health workforce, and improving access to behavioral health and telehealth services. These initiatives enhance and expands Universal Health Coverage.

On 6 November 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration proposed key changes to Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program.<sup>2759</sup> These changes aim to enhance competition in healthcare and improve access to affordable, quality care. Notably, the proposal includes measures to improve access to behavioral health care and foster transparency in Medicare. These actions align with G7 commitments to

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<sup>2754</sup> ICYMI: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$330 Million Dollars in New Funding to Advance Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative, Improve Health Care Research, Treatment, and Outcomes for the American Public, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/09/29/biden-harris-admin-announces-over-330-mil-dollars-in-new-funding-to-advance-biden-cancer-moonshot-initiative-improve-health-care-research-treatment-and-outcomes.html>

<sup>2755</sup> SAMHSA Announces Nearly \$35M in Grant Awards for Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care and HIV Prevention and Care for Historically Underserved Populations, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 4 October 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/10/04/samhsa-announces-nearly-35m-grant-awards-comprehensive-behavioral-health-care-hiv-prevention-care-historically-underserved-populations.html>

<sup>2756</sup> Project NextGen Selects Initial Vaccine Candidates and Awards Over \$500 Million to Advance Development of Vaccines and Therapeutics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/10/13/project-nextgen-selects-initial-vaccine-candidates-awards-over-500-million-advance-development-vaccines-therapeutics.html>

<sup>2757</sup> CMS Makes Hospital Prices More Transparent and Expands Access to Behavioral Health Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 2 November 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/02/cms-makes-hospital-prices-more-transparent-expands-access-behavioral-health-care.html>

<sup>2758</sup> The Biden-Harris Administration is taking actions to improve the health of rural communities and help rural health care providers stay open, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 3 November 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/03/department-health-human-services-actions-support-rural-america-rural-health-care-providers.html>

<sup>2759</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Proposes to Protect People with Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Coverage from Predatory Marketing, Promote Healthy Competition, and Increase Access to Behavioral Health Care in the Medicare Advantage Program, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 6 November 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/06/biden-harris-administration-proposes-protect-people-medicare-advantage-prescription-drug-coverage-predatory-marketing-promote-healthy-competition-increase-access-behavioral-health-care-medicare.html>

strengthen and extend health systems under Universal Health Coverage and enhance healthcare quality, reflecting a commitment to accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

On 16 November 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services, through the SAMHSA, announced funding opportunities totaling approximately USD74.4 million.<sup>2760</sup> These grants aim to address behavioral health challenges in local communities by focusing on the prevention of substance use initiation and reducing the progression of substance use. This funding aligns with SDG 3's section five target of strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

On 27 November 2023, the HHS announced the allocation of USD35 million for the domestic production of key materials for sterile injectable medicines.<sup>2761</sup> This investment is a strategic move to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities for public health emergencies. This aligns with targets within SDG 3 of strengthening capacity for early warning of global and national health risks.

On 12 December 2023, the HHS and the CMS released guidance to bolster Medicaid access to home- and community-based services via worker registries.<sup>2762</sup>

On 15 December 2023, the HHS announced the Transforming Maternal Health Model through the CMS, a ten-year initiative aimed at enhancing maternal and infant health outcomes for people enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).<sup>2763</sup> This strategic move directly aligns with sections one and two of SDG 3 by contributing to the reduction of global maternal mortality and the end of preventable deaths among newborns and children under five.

On 21 December 2023, the HHS and the General Services Administration unveiled revised guidelines for federal safety stations.<sup>2764</sup> This enhancement includes broadening equipment beyond Automated External Defibrillators to encompass naloxone and other opioid overdose reversal agents as well as hemorrhagic control tools such as Stop the Bleed kits. The initiative to update federal safety stations aligns with sections eight and five of SDG 3 targets, notably enhancing health equipment access and improving emergency substance abuse treatment capabilities.

On 9 January 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a Final Rule by the Office for Civil Rights, titled "Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes."<sup>2765</sup> This rule aims to clarify and enforce federal conscience laws more effectively, providing stronger safeguards against discrimination in healthcare access

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<sup>2760</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$74.4 Million in Funding Opportunities to Improve Behavioral Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/16/biden-harris-administration-announces-744-million-funding-opportunities.html>

<sup>2761</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Actions to Bolster Medical Supply Chain, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 27 November 2023. Access Date: 1 December 2023.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/27/biden-harris-administration-announces-actions-bolster-medical-supply-chain.html>

<sup>2762</sup> HHS Provides Critical Tools to Help Improve Access for Millions who Receive Medicaid Home and Community-based Services, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2023. Access Date: 28 February 2024.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/12/12/hhs-provides-critical-tools-to-help-improve-access-for-millions-who-receive-medicare-home-and-community-based-services.html>

<sup>2763</sup> HHS to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes with New CMS Care Model that Expands Access to Services, Other Proven Maternal Health Approaches, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 15 December 2023. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/12/15/hhs-to-improve-maternal-health-outcomes-with-new-cms-care-model-that-expands-access-to-services-other-proven-maternal-health-approaches.html>

<sup>2764</sup> HHS and GSA Update Guidelines for Federal Safety Stations to Improve Health and Safety, Facilitate Overdose Prevention, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2023. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/12/21/hhs-and-gsa-update-guidelines-for-federal-safety-stations-to-improve-health-and-safety-facilitate-overdose-prevention.html>

<sup>2765</sup> HHS Issues New Nondiscrimination Final Rule to Protect Conscience Rights, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 9 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/09/hhs-issues-new-nondiscrimination-final-rule-protect-conscience-rights.html>



based on conscience and religion. The rule revises previous regulations, following feedback from the public, to ensure both protection of individual conscience rights and public access to care that contributes towards achieving UHC.

On 11 January 2024, Secretary Becerra unveiled an online resource hub for Medicaid and CHIP, enhancing access to renewal resources.<sup>2766</sup> This initiative aggregates federal resources to assist individuals in navigating states' renewal procedures or transitioning to other coverage options. By ensuring beneficiaries are informed about the renewal process, this initiative supports SDG 3's goal to achieve UHC by facilitating more accessible healthcare access and information for vulnerable communities.

On 16 January 2024, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health launched the Platform Accelerating Rural Access to Distributed & InteGrated Medical care program to improve rural health outcomes, focusing on delivering hospital-level care in rural communities.<sup>2767</sup> The program aims to enhance early detection and management of diseases like cancer in underserved areas and address health disparities by integrating advanced medical technologies and services.

On 18 January 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a USD55 million funding award to 15 tribes and tribal organizations through the Small Ambulatory Program by Indian Health Service, aiming to enhance small ambulatory healthcare facilities.<sup>2768</sup> This move supports the construction, expansion, and modernization of facilities. The expanded care includes services related to chronic disease treatment and prevention. The initiatives advance sections four and eight of SDG 3.

On 19 January 2024, the CMS unveiled the Innovation in Behavioral Health Model to enhance care for individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders in Medicaid and Medicare.<sup>2769</sup> This initiative aims to improve care quality, access, and outcomes through community-based interprofessional care teams. This model aims to improve mental health and advances section four of SDG 3.

On 22 January 2024, the HHS and the Departments of Labor and Treasury announced new measures to enhance contraceptive care coverage.<sup>2770</sup> This initiative, responding to President Biden's Executive Order, aims to ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act's mandate for cost-free contraception coverage. These steps include issuing new Frequently Asked Questions for health plans and issuers, updating the Medicare Part D formulary review process, and promoting awareness about contraception access. This initiative supports Universal Health Coverage and addresses specific Sustainable Development Goal 3 targets, reinforcing the commitment to section seven and its emphasis on sexual and reproductive health services.

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<sup>2766</sup> HHS Launches New Medicaid/CHIP Resource Hub to Help Keep People Covered, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/11/hhs-launches-new-medicaid-chip-resource-hub-help-keep-people-covered.html>

<sup>2767</sup> Biden-Harris Administration's ARPA-H Launches PARADIGM Program to Improve Rural Health Outcomes, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 16 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/16/biden-harris-administration-arpa-h-launches-paradigm-program-improve-rural-health-outcomes.html>

<sup>2768</sup> HHS Small Ambulatory Program Awards \$55 Million to 15 Tribes and Tribal Organizations, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 18 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/18/hhs-small-ambulatory-program-awards-55-million-to-15-tribes-tribal-organizations.html>

<sup>2769</sup> CMS Announces Model to Advance Integration in Behavioral Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/19/cms-announces-model-to-advance-integration-in-behavioral-health.html>

<sup>2770</sup> HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Announces New Actions to Increase Contraceptive Care Coverage on 51st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/22/hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-announces-new-actions-increase-contraceptive-care-coverage-51st-anniversary-roe-v-wade.html>

On 24 January 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a USD50 million CMS grant to improve school-based health services through Medicaid and CHIP.<sup>2771</sup> Targeting 20 states with up to USD2.5 million each, the initiative, backed by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, focuses on mental health among other services. This initiative aligns with goals towards universal health coverage as well as SDG 3 section four.

On 30 January 2024, Secretary Becerra announced measures to combat the rising syphilis epidemic, including the National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force.<sup>2772</sup> Efforts to address the spike in cases include enhancing resources in Indigenous communities, issuing new prevention guidelines, and improving treatment access through FDA actions. The HHS's response to the syphilis epidemic aligns with section three of SDG 3 by enhancing public health interventions and funding to combat communicable diseases and end epidemics.

On 30 January 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model, prioritizing sickle cell disease treatments as the model's first phase.<sup>2773</sup> The initiative combats non-communicable diseases and advances section four of SDG 3.

On 31 January 2024, CMS proposed payment updates for the 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D programs, aiming to enhance payment accuracy and support for Medicare beneficiaries.<sup>2774</sup> The proposed changes include a 3.7 per cent increase in Medicare Advantage payments, equating to a roughly USD16 billion boost. This program reflects an increase in funding to support existing UHC programs. The plan also limits out-of-pocket pharmaceutical costs to USD2,000 for Medicare D recipients.

On 1 February 2024, the HHS announced new actions to combat overdose.<sup>2775</sup> New provisions of the final rule will expand access to medications for opioid use disorder. These actions align with SDG 3 section five's target to address substance abuse treatments and preventions.

On 2 February 2024, the HHS, through the SAMHSA, announced a USD28 million grant program to treat pregnant and postpartum women battling substance use disorder.<sup>2776</sup> The funding aims to improve maternal and newborn health as well as treating substance abuse and addresses sections one, two, and five of SDG 3.

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<sup>2771</sup> CMS Announces \$50 Million in Grants to Deliver Critical School-Based Health Services to Children, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 24 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/24/cms-announces-50-million-grants-deliver-critical-school-based-health-services-children.html>

<sup>2772</sup> HHS Announces Department Actions to Slow Surging Syphilis Epidemic, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 30 November 2023. Access Date: 30 January 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/30/hhs-announces-department-actions-slow-surging-syphilis-epidemic.html>

<sup>2773</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Action to Increase Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatments, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 30 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/30/biden-harris-administration-announces-action-increase-access-sickle-cell-disease-treatments.html>

<sup>2774</sup> CMS Releases Proposed Payment Updates for 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Programs, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/01/31/cms-releases-proposed-payment-updates-2025-medicare-advantage-part-d-programs.html>

<sup>2775</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Marks Two Years of Advancements in HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy with New Actions to Treat Addiction and Save Lives, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 1 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/01/biden-harris-administration-marks-two-years-advancements-hhs-overdose-prevention-strategy-new-actions-treat-addiction-save-lives-press-release.html>

<sup>2776</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$28 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants Expanding Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 2 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/02/biden-harris-administration-announces-28-million-funding-opportunities-grants-expanding-treatment-services-substance-use-disorder.html>

On 6 February 2024, the HHS released a strategic plan to combat vector-borne diseases in humans.<sup>2777</sup> This initiative aims at curtailing diseases transmitted by vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks, aligning with SDG 3 target to reduce premature deaths from communicable diseases including malaria.

On 6 February 2024, the HHS and CMS approved New Mexico's proposal for community-based mobile crisis intervention teams.<sup>2778</sup> This teams aim to enhance access to mental health and substance use crisis care. The approval advances sections four and five of SDG 3.

On 14 February 2024, Secretary Becerra announced the Postpartum Maternal Health Collaborative's launch.<sup>2779</sup> This initiative involves six states and aims to improve postpartum health and address high postpartum mortality rates. This collaborative effort reflects an effort towards tackling SDG3 sections one and two to reduce global maternal mortality and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five.

On 16 February 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration, through SAMHSA, awarded USD5.1 million across four grants to support LGBTQI+ youth and their families.<sup>2780</sup> This funding is aimed at preventing health risks and promoting well-being by establishing family counseling and support programs, as well as training providers on tailored interventions for LGBTQI+ families. This action will also aim to strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse. The funding addresses sections four and five of SDG 3.

On 23 February 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a USD100 million investment in women's health research through ARPA-H.<sup>2781</sup> The research funding advanced section four of SDG 3.

On 26 February 2024, HHS and SAMHSA announced USD36.9 million in funding opportunities for behavioral health services.<sup>2782</sup> Additionally, CMS guidance now enables states to expand eligible behavioral health care providers for enhanced federal Medicaid funding. The funding aids section four of SDG 3 and the guidance expands UHC coverage.

On 27 February 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a comprehensive initiative to enhance the direct care workforce.<sup>2783</sup> This effort establishes a national resource center to address shortages of direct care professionals.

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<sup>2777</sup> HHS Releases the National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 6 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/06/hhs-releases-national-public-health-strategy-prevent-and-control-vector-borne-diseases-people.html>

<sup>2778</sup> HHS Approves New Mexico's Request to Expand Access to Critical Behavioral Health Services Through Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 6 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/06/hhs-approves-new-mexicos-request-to-expand-access-to-critical-behavioral-health-services-through-mobile-crisis-intervention-teams.html>

<sup>2779</sup> HHS Launches Postpartum Maternal Health Collaborative, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/14/hhs-launches-postpartum-maternal-health-collaborative.html>

<sup>2780</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$5.1M in Support of LGBTQI+ Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 16 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/16/biden-harris-administration-awards-5-1m-support-lgbtqi-youth-families.html>

<sup>2781</sup> HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Tours New England, Announces \$100 Million Investment in Women's Healthcare Alongside the First Lady, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 23 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/23/hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-tours-new-england-announces-investment-womens-healthcare.html>

<sup>2782</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Funding to Increase Capacity for Behavioral Health Services, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/26/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-funding-to-increase-capacity-for-behavioral-health-services.html>

<sup>2783</sup> HHS Announces a Multi-Pronged Effort to Strengthen Direct Care Workforce, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/02/27/hhs-announces-multi-pronged-effort-strengthen-direct-care-workforce.html>

By increasing the capacity and support for this workforce, the initiative aligns with the SDG 3 goal to achieve universal health coverage.

On 28 February 2024, Assistant Secretary for Health for the HHS Rachel L. Levine convened a roundtable discussion involving the National Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Syndemic Federal Task Force and leaders from national provider organizations.<sup>2784</sup> These meetings advance section 3 of SDG 3 by combatting the congenital syphilis epidemic.

On 6 March 2024, the HHS, through the HRSA, announced a nearly USD 50 million initiative to support opioid treatment and recovery services in rural communities.<sup>2785</sup> This funding, part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, aims to enhance access to treatment and recovery services. By improving the infrastructure for opioid use disorder treatment, the program aligns with SDG 3 goals to strengthen the treatment and prevention of substance abuse in section five.

On 8 March 2024, Secretary Becerra introduced a new Smoking Cessation Framework to support nationwide efforts in reducing smoking rates.<sup>2786</sup> This framework, developed as part of the Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative, focuses on increasing accessibility to cessation programs, enhancing community engagement, and integrating evidence-based approaches. This strategy supports SDG 3 section A goal of strengthening implementation of the WHO framework convention on tobacco.

On 8 March 2024, Secretary Becerra announced the expansion of postpartum coverage in Utah under Medicaid and CHIP.<sup>2787</sup> This policy ensures that postpartum individuals in Utah will now receive comprehensive coverage for a full 12 months. This expansion, facilitated through the American Rescue Plan, supports the SDG 3 goal of achieving universal health coverage by extending critical healthcare benefits during the postpartum period.

On 9 March 2024, President Biden signed sections of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget passed by the House and Senate.<sup>2788</sup> These include targeted investments in health, focusing on expanding healthcare access and reducing out-of-pocket costs.<sup>2789</sup> These measures include extending affordability by capping insulin costs, and broadening Medicare's negotiation powers for drug prices, underlining efforts to enhance health equity. The budget supports the SDG 3 objective of universal health coverage by ensuring more Americans can afford and access necessary medical treatments. The budget also includes USD376 million for maternal as well as pre- and post-natal care addressing SDG 3 sections one and two.<sup>2790</sup> An additional USD1.8 billion allocation benefits children under five. Spending provisions include USD390 million for reproductive care which advances section

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<sup>2784</sup> Readout of HHS Roundtable on Congenital Syphilis with National Provider Organizations, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 1 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/01/readout-hhs-roundtable-congenital-syphilis-national-provider-organizations.html>

<sup>2785</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Launch of Nearly \$50 Million Initiative to Support Opioid Treatment and Recovery Services in Rural Communities, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/06/biden-harris-administration-announces-launch-nearly-50-million-initiative-support-opioid-treatment-recovery-services-rural-communities.html>

<sup>2786</sup> HHS Announces New Smoking Cessation Framework to Support Quitting, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 8 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/08/hhs-announces-new-smoking-cessation-framework-support-quitting.html>

<sup>2787</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Utah's Medicaid and CHIP Postpartum Coverage Expansion; 45 States Now Offer Full Year of Coverage After Pregnancy, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 8 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/08/biden-harris-administration-announces-utahs-medicaid-chip-postpartum-coverage-expansion.html>

<sup>2788</sup> Biden signs a package of spending bills passed by Congress just hours before a shutdown deadline, The Associated Press (Washington D.C.) 9 March 2024. Access Date: 25 April 2024. <https://apnews.com/article/biden-government-shutdown-congress-budget-spending-853b90ae025108be4ee98b939facd913>

<sup>2789</sup> Statement by Secretary Becerra on the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/11/statement-by-secretary-becerra-on-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2025-budget.html>

<sup>2790</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 Budget in Brief, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 13 March 2024. Access Date: 25 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2025-budget-in-brief.pdf>

seven. Aiding section four, the HHS increases funding for mental health by USD20.8 billion, authorizes USD260 million for diabetes treatment in Indigenous communities, funds the Cancer Moonshot program with USD2.9 billion and allocates USD1.4 billion for ARPA-H research to prevent disease. On infectious diseases, Congress mandates USD4 billion for Hepatitis C and USD9.8 billion for HIV.

On 19 March 2024, Secretary Becerra unveiled the Accountable Care Organization Primary Care Flex Model through the CMS, designed to improve access to quality primary care for underserved Medicare populations.<sup>2791</sup>

On 22 March 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a SAMHSA funding opportunity totaling USD39.4 million.<sup>2792</sup> This initiative intends to support and enhance behavioral health services across the nation and to combat drug overdose in line with sections 4 and 5 of SDG 3.

On 23 March 2024, HHS Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm and Africa Centres for Disease Control Director General Jean Kaseya reaffirmed their commitment to global health security during a roundtable meeting.<sup>2793</sup> This partnership focuses on strengthening health systems through US investments in health workers, data systems, and laboratories across Africa. The collaboration aligns with the SDG 3 section C goals to increase financing towards recruitment, development, training, and retention of the healthcare workforce in developing countries and section D on combatting health risks.

On 27 March 2024, Secretary Becerra announced a final rule to streamline enrollment processes for Medicaid, CHIP, and the Basic Health Program, as part of ongoing enhancements under the Affordable Care Act.<sup>2794</sup> This initiative aims to reduce administrative barriers, making it easier for millions to access health coverage and advancing UHC.

On 1 April 2024, Secretary Becerra announced the CMS finalized updates for 2025 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D programs.<sup>2795</sup> The updates include an average payment increase of three point seven per cent to Medicare Advantage plans, potentially impacting over USD500 billion in payments. The increase expands access to pharmaceuticals and moves towards UHC.

On 2 April 2024, Secretary Becerra announced finalized policies to make Affordable Care Act Marketplaces more accessible and to expand health benefit access.<sup>2796</sup> These changes include the introduction of routine adult

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<sup>2791</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Initiative to Increase Investments in Person-Centered Primary Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 19 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/19/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-initiative-to-increase-investments-in-person-centered-primary-care.html>

<sup>2792</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$39.4 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants to Help Advance the President's Unity Agenda, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/22/biden-harris-administration-announces-39-4-million-funding-opportunities-grants-help-advance-presidents-unity-agenda.html>

<sup>2793</sup> Readout of HHS Roundtable with Africa CDC on Ongoing Global Health Security Partnership, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 23 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/23/global-health-security-partnership-africa-cdc.html>

<sup>2794</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Builds on the Success of the Affordable Care Act by Streamlining Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP Coverage, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/03/27/biden-harris-administration-builds-success-affordable-care-act-streamlining-enrollment-medicaid-chip-coverage.html>

<sup>2795</sup> CMS Finalizes Payment Updates for 2025 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Programs, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 1 April 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/01/cms-finalizes-payment-updates-2025-medicare-advantage-medicare-part-d-programs.html>

<sup>2796</sup> HHS Finalizes Policies to Make Marketplace Coverage More Accessible and Expand Essential Health Benefits, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/02/hhs-finalizes-policies-make-marketplace-coverage-more-accessible-expand-essential-health-benefits.html>

dental services and new standards for care access. These initiatives support UHC goals of establishing or enlarging extended health benefits such as dental services.

On 10 April 2024, Secretary Becerra and the HRSA launched a USD51 million initiative to support health transitions for individuals leaving incarceration.<sup>2797</sup> The funding aims to connect individuals with primary, mental health, and substance use care prior to release. Connecting to these forms of care advance sections eight, four, and five of SDG 3 respectively.

On 16 April 2024, the Biden-Harris administration released the U.S. Global Health Security Strategy.<sup>2798</sup> The strategy focuses pandemic preparedness bilateral, multilateral, and regional partnerships as well as catalyzing public and private investment and commitments. The strategy aims to strengthen global health security mechanisms, aligning with SDG 3's goals to strengthen capacity for early warning of global and national health risks.

On 8 May 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services is announcing the Increasing Organ Transplant Access Model.<sup>2799</sup> The model aims to increase access to kidney transplants for all people living with end-stage renal disease, improve the quality of care for people seeking kidney transplants, reduce disparities among individuals undergoing the process to receive a kidney transplant, and increase the efficiency and capability of transplant hospitals selected to participate.

On 8 May 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services announced USD46.8 millions of funding opportunities to promote youth mental health and other behavioural health funding opportunities.<sup>2800</sup> The funding helps prevent substance use and overdose, enhance access to suicide prevention and mental health services and promote resilience and emotional health for children, youth, and families.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. It has demonstrated strong action towards Universal Health Coverage as well as achieving more than seven specific targets within the SDG 3. These actions releasing comprehensive plans to tackle sexually transmitted infections, prevent non-communicable diseases, implement cost-reduction measures for prescription drugs, combat environmental health hazards, and enhance healthcare access for vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women, and those with mental health needs, through various funding initiatives, policy changes, and collaborations.

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

*Analyst: Wyatt McConnell*

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<sup>2797</sup> During Second Chance Month, HRSA Takes Policy Action, Releases First-Ever Funding Opportunity for Health Centers to Support Transitions in Care for People Leaving Incarceration, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 22 April 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/10/health-centers-to-support-transitions-in-care-for-people-leaving-incarceration.html>

<sup>2798</sup> U.S. Government Global Health Security Strategy, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Global-Health-Security-Strategy-2024-1.pdf>

<sup>2799</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Acts to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington D.C.) 8 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/05/08/biden-harris-administration-acts-improve-access-kidney-transplants.html>

<sup>2800</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$46.8 Million in Behavioral Health Funding Opportunities to advance President Biden's Unity Agenda as Part of May Mental Health Awareness Month (Washington, D.C.) 8 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/05/08/biden-harris-administration-announces-46-8-million-behavioral-health-funding-opportunities-advance-president-bidens-unity-agenda-may-mental-health-awareness-month.html>

### European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades emphasizing the importance of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

On 26 May 2023, the European Medicines Agency reached a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>2801</sup> The partnership will expedite and improve access to medicines and bolster section eight of SDG 3.

On 5 June 2023, the European Commission and World Health Organization (WHO) announced the launch of a digital health partnership regarding digital Covid-19 certifications.<sup>2802</sup> Beginning in June, the WHO will adopt the EU's digital Covid-19 certification system, resulting in greater global mobility and protection from health threats. This partnership addresses section D of SDG 3 by strengthening the capacity to manage global health risks.

On 13 June 2023, the European Council adopted a recommendation that seeks to reduce antimicrobial resistance by monitoring the use of antibiotics through more comprehensive surveillance and raising awareness.<sup>2803</sup> The recommendation aids section B of SDG 3 by protecting against declines in antibiotic medicine efficacy.

On 23 June 2023, the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Werner Hoyer, met with the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley, to provide funding of EUR10 million to healthcare resilience efforts in Barbados.<sup>2804</sup> The funding furthers section C of SDG 3 by increasing health financing.

On 23 June 2023, the EIB helped found the Health Investment Platform with the WHO and other development banks.<sup>2805</sup> This Platform will provide an initial EUR1.5 billion in loans and grants for primary healthcare services across low- and middle-income countries, addressing section C of SDG 3.

On 27 June 2023, the European Council approved the replacement of the existing European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Action with a new European Union Drugs Agency.<sup>2806</sup> This new agency will respond to health and security challenges presented by illicit drugs and drug trafficking across the EU, strengthening section five of SDG 3.

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<sup>2801</sup> MHRA announces new recognition routes to facilitate safe access to new medicines with seven international partners, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-announces-new-recognition-routes-to-facilitate-safe-access-to-new-medicines-with-seven-international-partners>

<sup>2802</sup> The European Commission and WHO launch landmark digital health initiative to strengthen global health security, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-06-2023-the-european-commission-and-who-launch-landmark-digital-health-initiative-to-strengthen-global-health-security>

<sup>2803</sup> Tackling antimicrobial resistance: Council adopts recommendations, European Council (Brussels) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/13/tackling-antimicrobial-resistance-council-adopts-recommendation/>

<sup>2804</sup> Global Gateway: EIB and Barbados commit to closer cooperation, including a further €10 million for healthcare resilience, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-241-global-gateway-eib-and-barbados-commit-to-closer-cooperation-including-a-further-eur10-million-for-healthcare-resilience>

<sup>2805</sup> Multilateral development banks and WHO launch new investment platform to strengthen primary health care services (Luxembourg) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-240-multilateral-development-banks-and-who-launch-new-investment-platform-to-strengthen-primary-health-care-services>

<sup>2806</sup> Council gives final green light to creation of EU drugs agency, European Council (Brussels) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/27/council-gives-final-green-light-to-creation-of-eu-drugs-agency/>

On 7 July 2023, the EIB announced funding of EUR79 million to the Djibouti government to support access to clean drinking water in Djibouti.<sup>2807</sup> This effort will specifically combat water-borne diseases under section three of SDG 3.

On 12 July 2023, the European Parliament adopted recommendations to evaluate the work of its Special Committee on the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>2808</sup> The recommendations outline future action in four main areas, including health and global response to the pandemic. The recommendations address section D of SDG 3 by strengthening the capacity to manage global health risks.

On 12 July 2023, the European Commission and the EIB signed an agreement to establish Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Invest.<sup>2809</sup> HERA Invest makes available EUR100 million in venture loans that will cover up to half of project costs. The loans aim to finance medical and technological research and development to combat health threats in accordance with section B of SDG 3.

On 13 September 2023, the European Parliament passed a law regarding improved air quality with the goal of achieving a healthier environment for EU citizens.<sup>2810</sup> The law addresses section nine of SDG 3 by setting limits on pollutants including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and ozone.

On 14 September 2023, the EIB announced funding of EUR12.8 million to the Bulgarian municipality Burgas to establish a specialized children's hospital.<sup>2811</sup> The new hospital will provide care to 220,000 children in southern Bulgaria, advancing section two of SDG 3 by decreasing early-child mortality and enhancing access to UHC.

On 18 September 2023, the EIB announced funding of EUR1 million to the WHO to provide support for Ethiopia's primary healthcare system.<sup>2812</sup> This financing advances section C of SDG 3, including its emphasis on aid for least developed countries (LDCs).

On 20 September 2023, the European Parliament's Environment Committee adopted a report outlining their recommendations for the treatment of discharge water, with the goal of better protecting human health.<sup>2813</sup> The measures, including better monitoring of chemicals and detection of viruses, address section nine and section D of SDG 3.

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<sup>2807</sup> Djibouti: Global Gateway - €79 million EIB support for water desalination and wastewater treatment, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-261-global-gateway-eur-79m-eib-support-for-water-desalination-and-wastewater-treatment-in-djibouti>

<sup>2808</sup> COVID-19: Parliament adopts roadmap to better prepare for future health crises, European Parliament (Brussels) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230707IPR02427/covid-19-parliament-adopts-roadmap-to-better-prepare-for-future-health-crises>

<sup>2809</sup> European Health Union: HERA Invest offers €100 million for innovative solutions to health threats, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-268-european-health-union-hera-invest-offers-eur100-million-for-innovative-solutions-to-health-threats>

<sup>2810</sup> Air pollution: MEPs want stricter limits to achieve zero pollution by 2050, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230911IPR04915/air-pollution-meps-want-stricter-limits-to-achieve-zero-pollution-by-2050>

<sup>2811</sup> Bulgaria: EIB extends €12.8 million loan for a new children's hospital, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 14 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-327-eib-extends-eur12-8-million-loan-for-a-new-children-s-hospital-in-bulgaria>

<sup>2812</sup> Bulgaria: EIB extends €12.8 million loan for a new children's hospital, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 14 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-327-eib-extends-eur12-8-million-loan-for-a-new-children-s-hospital-in-bulgaria>

<sup>2813</sup> MEPs want more efficient treatment and reuse of urban wastewater, European Parliament (Brussels) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230918IPR05433/meps-want-more-efficient-treatment-and-reuse-of-urban-wastewater>



On 3 October 2023, the European Parliament approved a law that seeks to reduce the exposure of EU workers to carcinogenic asbestos fibers, furthering goals in sections four and nine of SDG 3.<sup>2814</sup>

On 9 October 2023, Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs met in Luxembourg and approved multiple conclusions regarding mental health.<sup>2815</sup> These conclusions call upon member states to improve working conditions, protect mental health, and eliminate psychosocial risks in the workplace, advancing section four of SDG 3.

On 11 October 2023, the EIB announced an investment of EUR500 million to efforts to eradicate polio in Africa and Asia.<sup>2816</sup> This investment will go towards the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and cover vaccinations for around 370 million children annually. The funding supports sections two and three of SDG 3.

On 18 October 2023, the EIB announced funding of EUR6.6 billion towards various climate and energy goals, including strengthening health development across the EU and the wider world.<sup>2817</sup> The funding supports wastewater treatment projects in Italy and the Czech Republic, as well as water drainage infrastructure in Benin, furthering section three of SDG 3.

On 20 October 2023, representatives from the European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations met with top representatives from the WHO to discuss health emergency preparedness.<sup>2818</sup> Representatives shared their global health priorities and ideas for strategic health developments and, supporting section D of SDG 3, and discussed negotiations for a Pandemic Accord.

On 24 October 2023, the European Commission adopted a set of policies to improve its prevention and mitigation of medicine shortages across the EU.<sup>2819</sup> The policies include the launch of the European Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism for medicines, the creation of an EU list of critical medicines, and the adoption of various regulatory flexibilities. This action will enhance UHC in the EU.

On 25 October 2023, the European Council adopted a regulation regarding blood, tissues, and cells, in order to ensure better protection of all individuals engaging in and assisted with medically assisted reproduction.<sup>2820</sup> The measures seek to decrease maternal and child mortality through communicable disease reduction, thereby addressing sections one, two, and three of SDG 3.

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<sup>2814</sup> Exposure to asbestos: MEPs adopt law to protect workers more robustly, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230929IPR06119/exposure-to-asbestos-meps-adopt-law-to-protect-workers-more-robustly>

<sup>2815</sup> Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Employment and social policy) European Council (Brussels) 9 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/epsco/2023/10/09/>

<sup>2816</sup> EIB lends support to Global Polio Eradication Programme, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/eib-global-polio-eradication-programme>

<sup>2817</sup> EIB backs €6.6 billion energy, business, transport and health investment around the world, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-385-eib-backs-eur6-6-billion-energy-business-transport-and-health-investment-around-the-world>

<sup>2818</sup> WHO and ECHO discuss the way forward in strengthening their partnership and innovative ways of cooperation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.who.int/news/item/20-10-2023-who-and-echo-discuss-the-way-forward-in-strengthening-their-partnership-and-innovative-ways-of-cooperation>

<sup>2819</sup> Commission steps up actions to address critical shortages of medicines and strengthen security of supply in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 24 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_5190](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5190)

<sup>2820</sup> Blood, tissues and cells: EU to guarantee high standards of quality and safety, European Council (Brussels) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/10/25/blood-tissues-and-cells-eu-to-guarantee-high-standards-of-quality-and-safety/>

On 25 October 2023, the EIB announced funding of EUR250,000 to cover psychosocial and trauma support for victims of the recent earthquake in Morocco, in alignment with section four of SDG 3.<sup>2821</sup>

On 26 October 2023, the EU pledged funding of EUR500 million to reinforce a partnership between the European Commission, the EIB, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.<sup>2822</sup> The investments include research and development for medical innovations including vaccines, as well as their production and promotion. The EU also announced EUR134 million to improve domestic health manufacturing and healthcare access in Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa. The funding addresses sections B and C of SDG 3, with emphasis on LDCs while increasing UHC access.

On 27 October 2023, the EIB announced its support and funding for a technical assistance facility for the Caribbean Sustainable Water Management and Clean Oceans program.<sup>2823</sup> This facility aims to improve access to clean water, leading to better health outcomes and further section three of SDG 3. Selected projects can access EUR150 billion in EIB loans.

On 27 October 2023, the EU began its EU humanitarian air bridge operation, which will work to provide essential supplies to those in need in Gaza.<sup>2824</sup> The EU is funding the entirety of the project under the European Humanitarian Response Capacity. This increased access to medical supplies will advance global UHC.

On 16 November 2023, the EIB announced EUR25 million in funding to a water company in Lithuania, which will allow the company to extend and rehabilitate its local water supply.<sup>2825</sup> This supports section C of SDG 3.

On 28 November 2023, the EIB donated EUR200,000 to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to address the needs of refugees in Armenia.<sup>2826</sup> This funding will support up to 26,000 refugees who are preparing to face winter, supporting section C of SDG 3.

On 30 November 2023, the EIB announced EUR100 million in funding to a water supply company in the Netherlands, which will allow the company to upgrade its drinking water production and distribution.<sup>2827</sup> This funding aligns with section C of SDG 3.

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<sup>2821</sup> Supporting Morocco's earthquake recovery: EIB Institute donates €250 000 for mental health and rehabilitation programs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/after-the-earthquake-rebuilding-mentally-in-morocco>

<sup>2822</sup> Global Gateway: EU steps up support for global health and equitable access to health products and local manufacturing, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-396-global-gateway-eu-steps-up-support-global-health-equitable-access-health-products-local-manufacturing>

<sup>2823</sup> Global Gateway: Team Europe launches technical assistance to boost water, sanitation, solid waste, flood protection and clean oceans projects in the Caribbean, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 27 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-400-team-europe-launches-technical-assistance-boost-water-sanitation-solid-waste-flood-protection-clean-oceans-projects-caribbean>

<sup>2824</sup> EU coordinating 6 new humanitarian aid flights for Gaza, European Commission (Brussels) 27 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_5368](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5368)

<sup>2825</sup> Lithuania: Klaipėdos vanduo gets €25 million EIB financing to future-proof water supply and wastewater system, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-426-klaipedos-vanduo-gets-eur25-million-eib-financing-to-future-proof-water-supply-and-wastewater-system>

<sup>2826</sup> Armenia: EIB Group donates €200 000 to UNICEF for psycho-social support for refugees, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 28 November 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-477-armenia-eib-group-donates-eur200-000-to-unicef-for-psycho-social-support-for-refugees>

<sup>2827</sup> Netherlands: EIB signs €100 million loan for Limburg water infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 30 November 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-482-eib-signs-eur100-million-loan-for-limburg-water-infrastructure>

On 1 December 2023, the European Parliament hosted a commemorative act with the theme “HIV and Human Rights: Political Action to Achieve Zero Stigma,” aligning with section seven of SDG 3.<sup>2828</sup>

On 5 December 2023, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament reached an agreement surrounding regulations of classifying, labelling, and packaging chemicals.<sup>2829</sup> This agreement seeks to protect human health by providing improved information to chemical hazards.

On 14 December 2023, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached an agreement surrounding rules aimed at improving the safety and quality of substances of human origin including blood, tissues, and cells used in healthcare.<sup>2830</sup> The regulations aim to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases in line with section three of SDG 3.

On 18 December 2023, President von der Leyen visited Rwanda and announced a supplemental EUR40 million investment to support pharmaceutical and biotechnology development, advancing section B of SDG 3.<sup>2831</sup>

On 21 December 2023, the EIB signed a loan agreement with Vitalia for EUR90 million to finance health services throughout Spain.<sup>2832</sup> These include residential and outpatient care centres, as well as assisted-living centres. The financing of facility expansion improves UHC access in Spain.

On 16 January 2024, the European Commission launched an open call of interest via its Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority for its Critical Medicines Alliance, established to prevent and address shortages of critical medicines.<sup>2833</sup>

On 23 January 2024, the European Commission adopted new standards for materials and products that come into contact with drinking water, ensuring that water is safer to drink and addressing section nine of SDG 3.<sup>2834</sup>

On 29 January 2024, the Council of the EU adopted new regulations that seek to limit the use of gases and substances including hydrofluorocarbons that contribute to global warming.<sup>2835</sup> The reduction in air pollution advances section nine of SDG 3.

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<sup>2828</sup> World AIDS Day 2023 – events in Geneva and around the world, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/12/01/default-calendar/world-aids-day-2023-events-in-geneva-and-around-the-world>

<sup>2829</sup> Safer chemicals: Council and Parliament strike deal on the regulation for classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 5 December 2023. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/05/safer-chemicals-council-and-parliament-strike-deal-on-the-regulation-for-classification-labelling-and-packaging-of-chemical-substances/>

<sup>2830</sup> Blood, tissues and cells: Council and Parliament strike deal, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 14 December 2023. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/14/blood-tissues-and-cells-council-and-parliament-strike-deal/>

<sup>2831</sup> The EU and Rwanda work to boost vaccine manufacturing in Africa, improve skills, and develop sustainable supply chains, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2023. Access Date: 3 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ac\\_24\\_123](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ac_24_123)

<sup>2832</sup> Spain: InvestEU - EIB and Vitalia sign a €90 million loan agreement to improve social and health care services for the elderly, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 21 December 2023. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-549-investeu-eib-and-vitalia-sign-a-eur90-million-loan-agreement-to-improve-social-and-health-care-services-for-the-elderly-in-spain>

<sup>2833</sup> Commission opens participation to Critical Medicines Alliance, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2023. Access Date: 3 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_182](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_182)

<sup>2834</sup> Drinking water to become safer thanks to new EU-wide hygiene standards for materials and products in contact with water, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_350](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_350)

<sup>2835</sup> Fluorinated gases and ozone-depleting substances: Council greenlights new rules to reduce harmful emissions, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 16 January 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/01/29/fluorinated-gases-and-ozone-depleting-substances-council-greenlights-new-rules-to-reduce-harmful-emissions/>

On 31 January 2024, the European Commission presented a recommendation regarding Member States' efforts to prevent cancer through vaccination, focusing on boosting the uptake of two vaccinations and improving the monitoring of coverage rates.<sup>2836</sup>

On 8 February 2024, the EIB announced USD9.86 million in loans via the Caribbean Development Bank to Saint Lucia.<sup>2837</sup> The loan will finance facility improvements, medical equipment, and training for healthcare workers. The funding improves UHC access and aids section d of SDG 3 including its emphasis on SIDs.

On 20 February 2024, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached an agreement to centre EU air quality standards around the goal of zero-pollution, addressing section nine of SDG 3.<sup>2838</sup>

On 21 February 2024, the Council of the EU amended its law on medical devices.<sup>2839</sup> The amendment extends the transition period for certain devices, enabling a gradual introduction of a new database, and requiring manufacturers to flag potential shortages of devices. These updates will work comprehensively to ensure increased access to medical devices throughout the EU.

On 26 February 2024, the EIB announced USD9,970,500 in loans via the Caribbean Development Bank to Grenada, which will be allocated towards strengthening the country's health sector.<sup>2840</sup>

On 14 March 2024, the EIB announced EUR30 million in loans to Italy's autonomous province of Bolzano-South Tyrol, which will go towards the province's creation of an elderly care centre.<sup>2841</sup> The funds support a health centre accessible to the community and advance UHC.

On 20 March 2024, the European Commission launched three Team Europe Initiatives with the African Union advancing health.<sup>2842</sup> Initiatives include sustainable health security with Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, and Spain, support to public health institutes in Africa with Belgium, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, and digital health with Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The initiatives contribute to UHC and address sections C and D of SDG 3 through workforce training and supports and pandemic preparedness.

On 21 March 2024, the European Commissioner for International Partnership Jutta Urpilainen, delivered a speech at a joint event between the EU, Latin America, and the Caribbean, titled the EU-LAC High-Level

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<sup>2836</sup> Commission recommends new measures on vaccine-preventable cancers under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_519](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_519)

<sup>2837</sup> CDB, EIB Launch US\$9.86 million project to improve Saint Lucia health care systems, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-059-cdb-eib-launch-ususd9-86-million-project-to-improve-saint-lucia-health-care-systems>

<sup>2838</sup> Air quality: Council and Parliament strike deal to strengthen standards in the EU, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/20/air-quality-council-and-parliament-strike-deal-to-strengthen-standards-in-the-eu/>

<sup>2839</sup> Medical devices: Council endorses new measures to help prevent shortages, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/02/21/medical-devices-council-endorses-new-measures-to-help-prevent-shortages/>

<sup>2840</sup> Grenada: CDB, EIB launch US\$ 9 970 500 health sector strengthening project, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-083-cdb-eib-launch-ususd-9-970-500-health-sector-strengthening-project-in-grenada>

<sup>2841</sup> Italy: EIB provides €30 million for the construction of a state-of-the-art care centre for senior citizens in Brixen, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 14 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-106-eib-provides-eur30-million-for-the-construction-of-a-state-of-the-art-care-centre-for-senior-citizens-in-brixen>

<sup>2842</sup> Team Europe and African partners launch four initiatives to strengthen health systems and social protection in Africa \*, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1563](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1563)

Event on Inclusive Human Development and Equitable Access to Health Products, in which she reaffirmed the EU's commitment to improving human health across the globe.<sup>2843</sup>

On 22 March 2024, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides delivered the opening remarks at the 14th European Breast Cancer Conference, in which she reaffirmed the EU's commitment to addressing the issue of breast cancer in line with section four of SDG 3.<sup>2844</sup>

On 27 March 2024, the EIB announced EUR30 million in loans to French medical robotics company Quantum Surgical towards the company's abdominal and lung cancer treatment technology.<sup>2845</sup> Mortality prevention from non-communicable disease advances section four of SDG 3.

On 18 April 2024, Commissioner Kyriakides and the Turkish Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca met at the second EU-Türkiye High-Level Dialogue on Health, where they discussed the importance of healthcare cooperation.<sup>2846</sup>

On 19 April 2024, the EIB announced EUR215 million in loans to the regional government of Andalusia, for various public projects including the region's new Málaga Hospital.<sup>2847</sup>

On 24 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted new measures to improve air quality in the EU to reduce harm to human health.<sup>2848</sup> The new rules set stricter 2030 limits and target values for pollutants with a severe impact on human health, including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and sulphur dioxide. Those affected by air pollution will be able to take legal action and receive compensation if their health has been damaged by violations of the new rules.

On 2 May 2024, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a financial assistance package for Lebanon worth EUR1 billion for 2024 to 2027.<sup>2849</sup> This continued EU support will strengthen basic services such as health for the people in Lebanon.

On 7 May 2024, the European Commission is providing EUR125 million in new EU humanitarian funding to address the most pressing needs of people in Yemen amidst the ongoing crisis and escalating tensions in the region.<sup>2850</sup> The aid will support food security and assistance for malnutrition, health and specialised protection services.

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<sup>2843</sup> Speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at the Espeech at the EU-LAC High-Level Event on Inclusive Human Development and Equitable Access to Health Products, European Commission (Brussels) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_24\\_1648](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_24_1648)

<sup>2844</sup> Opening Remarks by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides at the 14th European Breast Cancer Conference, European Commission (Brussels) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_24\\_1686](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_24_1686)

<sup>2845</sup> France: Medical robotics company Quantum Surgical gets EIB loan to advance tumour treatment, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 27 March 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-132-french-medical-robotics-company-quantum-surgical-gets-eib-loan-to-advance-tumour-treatment>

<sup>2846</sup> Joint Statement on EU-Türkiye High Level Dialogue on Health, European Commission (Brussels) 18 April 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_24\\_2143](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_2143)

<sup>2847</sup> Spain: EIB and Andalusia regional government sign €215 million loan for education, energy transition, healthcare, sustainable transport, and digital projects, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 23 April 2024.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-158-eib-and-andalusia-regional-government-sign-eur215-million-loan-for-education-energy-transition-healthcare-sustainable-transport-and-digital-projects>

<sup>2848</sup> Air pollution: Parliament adopts revised law to improve air quality, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 April 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240419IPR20587/air-pollution-parliament-adopts-revised-law-to-improve-air-quality>

<sup>2849</sup> President von der Leyen reaffirms EU's strong support for Lebanon and its people and announces a €1 billion package of EU funding (Brussels) 2 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2384](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2384)

<sup>2850</sup> EU allocates €125 million in humanitarian aid for most vulnerable in Yemen, European Commission (Brussels) 7 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2465](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2465)

On 7 May 2024, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Chemicals Agency, the European Environment Agency, the European Food Safety Authority, and the European Medicines Agency published the One Health agenda.<sup>2851</sup> The agenda recognizes the complex interplay between human, animal and plant health, food safety, the climate crisis and environmental sustainability and aims to better prevent, predict, detect and respond to health threats.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reverse the first global decline in life expectancy in more than seven decades, emphasizing the importance of achieving UHC by 2030 and accelerating progress toward SDG 3. Through strategic partnerships, regulatory actions, and significant financial investments, the EU has demonstrated strong action towards achieving UHC and advancing more than seven sections of SDG 3. These efforts include improving access to medicines, enhancing digital health systems, reducing antimicrobial resistance, financing healthcare resilience, establishing new health agencies, combating water-borne diseases, and addressing health threats from climate and environmental factors.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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<sup>2851</sup> One Health: a joint framework for action published by five EU agencies, European Medicine Agency (Brussels) 7 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/one-health-joint-framework-action-published-five-eu-agencies>