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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Interim Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 3 December 2023

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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

## Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Introduction.....  | 3   |
| Research Team .....  | 4   |
| Compliance Analysts .....  | 4   |
| Summary .....  | 6   |
| The Interim Compliance Score .....                                       | 6   |
| Compliance by Member .....   | 6   |
| Compliance by Commitment.....  | 6   |
| The Compliance Gap Between Members.....                                  | 6   |
| Future Research and Reports.....   | 7   |
| Table A: 2023 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment* .....        | 7   |
| Table B: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores .....               | 9   |
| Table C: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores by Member.....      | 10  |
| Table D: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment ..... | 11  |
| 1. Regional Security: Sanctions .....                                    | 12  |
| 2. Regional Security: Security Assistance for Ukraine.....               | 34  |
| 3. Non-Proliferation: Responsible Nuclear Supply Chain .....             | 51  |
| 4. Climate Change: Domestic Mitigation Measures .....                    | 74  |
| 5. Climate Change: Emission Reduction Policies .....                     | 91  |
| 6. Energy: Clean Energy Technologies .....                               | 108 |
| 7. Energy: Low Carbon and Renewable Hydrogen Markets .....               | 152 |
| 8. Environment: Conservation Measures.....                               | 207 |
| 9. Food and Agriculture: Healthy and Safe Diets.....                     | 226 |
| 10. Food and Agriculture: Food Safety and Sustainable Production .....   | 245 |
| 11. Health: Life Expectancy.....   | 273 |
| 12. Human Rights: Forced Labour .....                                    | 325 |
| 13. Education: Inclusivity and Equity .....                              | 337 |
| 14. Gender: Labour Markets.....  | 355 |
| 15. Labour and Employment: Job Creation .....                            | 370 |
| 16. Digital Economy: Digital Ecosystem with Trust .....                  | 386 |
| 17. Macroeconomics: Fiscal Sustainability and Price Stability.....       | 402 |
| 18. Crime and Corruption: Synthetic Drugs.....                           | 426 |
| 19. Development: Official Development Assistance.....                    | 440 |
| 20. Trade: Resilient Supply Chains.....                                  | 470 |

## 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          |               | 0                  |                 |
| United Kingdom |               |                    | +1              |
| United States  |               |                    | +1              |
| European Union |               |                    | +1              |
| Average        | +0.88 (94%)   |                    |                 |

### 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>1557</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>1558</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>1559</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>1560</sup> International cooperation was emphasized to strengthen existing organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

<sup>1557</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-communication.html>

<sup>1558</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>1559</sup> Declaration on Economic Recovery, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 10 February 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1983williamsburg/communication.html>

<sup>1560</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>1561</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>1562</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>1563</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>1564</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>1565</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>1566</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>1561</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>1562</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>1563</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 1 February 2015. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

<sup>1564</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 15 September 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

<sup>1565</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>1566</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>1567</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>1568</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>1569</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>1570</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>1571</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>1572</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>1573</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>1567</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>1568</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>1569</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>1570</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>1571</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>1572</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>1573</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>1574</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>1575</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>1576</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>1577</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>1578</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>1579</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>1580</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>1574</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>1575</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>1576</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>1577</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>1578</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>1579</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>1580</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>1581</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>1582</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>1583</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>1584</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>1585</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>1586</sup>

“Reverse” refers to changing the direction of something to its opposite.<sup>1587</sup>

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<sup>1581</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/communique.html>

<sup>1582</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>1583</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>1584</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>1585</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-communique.html>

<sup>1586</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>1587</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>1588</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>1589</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>1590</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>1588</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>1589</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>1590</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>1591</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>1592</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>1593</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>1594</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>1591</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>1592</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>1593</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>1594</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>1595</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>1596</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>1597</sup>

On 31 May 2023, Minister Bennett announced that Canada will require health warnings to be printed directly on individual cigarettes.<sup>1598</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>1599</sup>

On 5 June 2023, Minister Bennett announced regulatory changes to schedule novel fentanyl precursors under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.<sup>1600</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>1595</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>1596</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>1597</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>1598</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>1599</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>1600</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>1601</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>1602</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>1603</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>1604</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>1605</sup>

On 21 June 2023 Minister Bennett announced regulations requiring manufacturers to disclose sales and ingredients used in vaping products to Health Canada.<sup>1606</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>1601</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>1602</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>1603</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>1604</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>1605</sup> Government of Canada moves forward on commitments to strength 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>1606</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>1607</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>1608</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>1609</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>1610</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>1611</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>1612</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>1607</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>1608</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>1609</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>1610</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>1611</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>1612</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>1613</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>1614</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>1615</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 Khera 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>1616</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>1617</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>1618</sup>

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<sup>1613</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>1614</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>1615</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>1616</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>1617</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>1618</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>1619</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>1620</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>1621</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>1622</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>1623</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>1624</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>1625</sup> The project

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<sup>1619</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>1620</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>1621</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>1622</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>1623</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>1624</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>1625</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>1626</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>1627</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>1628</sup>

On 1 October 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau declared that dental costs for seniors would be lowered through the Canadian Dental Care Plan.<sup>1629</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>1630</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>1631</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, reducing 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>1626</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>1627</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>1628</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>1629</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>1630</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>1631</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>1632</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>1633</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>1634</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>1635</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>1636</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>1637</sup>

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<sup>1632</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>1633</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>1634</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>1635</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>1636</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>1637</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>1638</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>1639</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>1640</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.

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, improving research on medication and treatment and preparing for national and global health risks. Canada has, therefore, taken action on seven 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>1641</sup> The ministry's action contributes to reducing road deaths and promotes section six of SDG 3.

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<sup>1638</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>1639</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>1640</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>1641</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>

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>1642</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>1643</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>1644</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.

On 13 June 2023, Minister of Health and Prevention François Braun released a list of essential drugs to help manage their shortages.<sup>1645</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>1646</sup> The strategy launches eight projects with EUR160 million in government funding.<sup>1647</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>1648</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>1649</sup> The new plan allocates EUR65 million to increase the medical assistant workforce from 4,000 to

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<sup>1642</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-sante-sexuelle-du-5-au-11-juin](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>1643</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>1644</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>.

<sup>1645</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>1646</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>1647</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>1648</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>1649</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>

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>1650</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>1651</sup> The new strategy aims to bolster and expand France's UHC system.<sup>1652</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, 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>1653</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>1654</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>1655</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

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<sup>1650</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>1651</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>1652</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)

<sup>1653</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/communiques-de-presse/article/rapport-de-la-mission-financement-et-regulation-des-produits-de-sante>

<sup>1654</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>1655</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>

Public Accounts Thomas Cazenave introduced the Social Security Financing Bill to the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly.<sup>1656</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.

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>1657</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>1658</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>1659</sup> The campaign aims to reduce air pollution and promotes section nine of SDG 3.

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<sup>1656</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/l16b1682\\_projet-loi](https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/16/textes/l16b1682_projet-loi)

<sup>1657</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>1658</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>1659</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.

On 26 October 2023, the Crisis and Support Center delivered supplies to Palestinian civilians in Gaza including medicines and water purification tablets.<sup>1660</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>1661</sup>

On 4 November 2023, the National Assembly passed the 2024 Social Security Financing Bill.<sup>1662</sup>

On 9 November 2023, the National Assembly passed the 2024 Budget Bill.<sup>1663</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>1664</sup> The funds include 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>1665</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>1666</sup>

On 28 November 2023, Minister Rousseau announced the new National Tobacco Control Program 2023-2027.<sup>1667</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

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<sup>1660</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>1661</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>1662</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>1663</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>1664</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>1665</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>1666</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>1667</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>

of incomes dependent on the tobacco. The program strengthens World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) implementation, 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>1668</sup>

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, and enhancing capacity towards health threats. France has, therefore, acted on seven SDG 3 targets.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jacob Rudolph*

### **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>1669</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>1670</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>1671</sup>

On 5 July 2023, the Federal Cabinet adopted the 2024 Draft Budgetary Plan.<sup>1672</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

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<sup>1668</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>1669</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>1670</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>1671</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>1672</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)

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 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>1673</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 federal and state governments agreed on a key point for a law on hospital reform scheduled to be enacted on 1 January 2024.<sup>1674</sup> 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 provides an advance allowance to necessary clinics, ensuring they can supply treatment even at lower quantities – ending the flat rate per case system and providing greater access to treatment.

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>1675</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>1676</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>1677</sup> Based on this new law, the Federal Ministry of Health

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<sup>1673</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>1674</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>1675</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>1676</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-gefaehrdungsbeurteilung-veroeffentlicht-229380>

<sup>1677</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>

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.

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>1678</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>1679</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>1680</sup> This brings Germany’s total monetary contribution for the year to WHO’s work with health emergencies to EUR53.5 million.

On 29 September 2023, the federal government’s commission on hospital care called for reform in conservative and surgical paediatric and adolescent medicine by introducing a paediatric institute of outpatient clinics, more flexible treatment of mental illnesses by hospitals and a continuation of the financial surcharge for the upcoming year of up to 20 per cent.<sup>1681</sup>

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>1682</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>1683</sup>

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<sup>1678</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>1679</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>1680</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>1681</sup> Regierungskommission legt Reformvorschläge für Kindermedizin und Behandlung psychischer Erkrankungen vor, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/regierungskommission-reformvorschlaege-kindermedizin-behandlung-psychischer-erkrankungen-pm-29-09-23.html>

<sup>1682</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.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/globales-rahmenwerk-fuer-eine-welt-ohne-schaeden-durch-chemikalien-und-abfaelle-verabschiedet>

<sup>1683</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>



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>1684</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 health emergencies and research.<sup>1685</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>1686</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.

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, 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>1684</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>

<sup>1685</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>1686</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>

On 22 May 2023, the Ministry of Health announced it would “continue to contribute constructively” to enhance the national health system.<sup>1687</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>1688</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>1689</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>1690</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>1691</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.

On 10 July 2023, the Ministry of Health unveiled the National Plan for Rare Diseases (PNMR) 2023-2026.<sup>1692</sup> Orchestrated by Undersecretary Marcello Gemmato, this plan allocates EUR25 million annually for 2023 and

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<sup>1687</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>1688</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>1689</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>1690</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>1691</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)

<sup>1692</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)

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>1693</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>1694</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>1695</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>1696</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>1697</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.

On 21 September 2023, Minister Schillaci, speaking at the UN General Assembly, emphasized the importance of strengthening international cooperation to improve global health.<sup>1698</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

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<sup>1693</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>1694</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>1695</sup> Italy, UNOPS Sign €6m In 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-e6mIn-to-expand-healthcare-service-delivery-in-adwa/>

<sup>1696</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>1697</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)

<sup>1698</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)

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>1699</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>1700</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>1701</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>1702</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 disabilities.<sup>1703</sup> This project will focus on Kassala State, and aims to improve access to quality health services for more than 2.8 million people.

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<sup>1699</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>1700</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>1701</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>1702</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>

<sup>1703</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>

On 23 November 2023, Minister Schillaci signed a decree for the 2023 psychologist bonus, underlining mental health as a key priority.<sup>1704</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>1705</sup>

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 seven 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, ending epidemics and combating noncommunicable diseases.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wyatt McConnell*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially 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 Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency reached a common regulatory recognition partnership with Australia, Canada, the European Union, Switzerland, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>1706</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>1707</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>1708</sup> The funding advances section C of SDG 3 in line with its emphasis on small island developing states.

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<sup>1704</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>1705</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>1706</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>1707</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>1708</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>

On 31 August 2023, Japan collaborated with the Government of Taiwan to hold the 20th Japan-Taiwan Symposium on Infectious Diseases.<sup>1709</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>1710</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>1711</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>1712</sup> This agreement will allow the countries to continue to work together on planning, developing, and distributing emergency medicines.

On 21 September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida delivered remarks at the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on UHC.<sup>1713</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>1714</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>1715</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>1716</sup>

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<sup>1709</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>1710</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>1711</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>1712</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>1713</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>1714</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>1715</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>1716</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)

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>1717</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>1718</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>1719</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>1720</sup>

Japan has partially 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 six aspects of SDG 3: road traffic safety, preventing drug abuse, researching and developing medicines and vaccines, ending global epidemics, promoting universal health coverage, and financing the development of healthcare systems in developing countries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Hannah Cluroe*

### **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>1721</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.

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<sup>1717</sup> 新型コロナ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>1718</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>1719</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>1720</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>1721</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>

On 24 May 2023, the Minister for Development Andrew Mitchell pledged GBP143 million in humanitarian aid to East Africa.<sup>1722</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>1723</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>1724</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>1725</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>1726</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 Education curriculum. G7 members classify vapes as tobacco products and their control strengthens implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), advancing section A of SDG 3.<sup>1727</sup>

On 9 June 2023, the MHRA announced the Windsor Framework to secure medicine supplies to Northern Ireland.<sup>1728</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>1729</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.

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<sup>1722</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>1723</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>1724</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>1725</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>1726</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>

<sup>1727</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>1728</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>1729</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>



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>1730</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>1731</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>1732</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>1733</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.

On 28 June 2023, Secretary of State Barclay and Minister of State Whately opened bids for a GBP1 million defibrillator fund.<sup>1734</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>1735</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>1736</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.

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<sup>1730</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>1731</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>1732</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>1733</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>

<sup>1734</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>1735</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>1736</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>

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>1737</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>1738</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>1739</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>1740</sup> The memorandum furthers 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>1741</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>1742</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>1743</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

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<sup>1737</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>1738</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>1739</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>1740</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>

<sup>1741</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>1742</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>1743</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>

countries.<sup>1744</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>1745</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>1746</sup> The funds support drug availability within the UHC system aiding access and affordability.

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>1747</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>1748</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>1749</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>1750</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>1751</sup> The proposed inserts address section a of SDG 3 and its commitment towards the WHO FCTC.

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<sup>1744</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>1745</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>1746</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>

<sup>1747</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.gov.uk/government/news/6-million-to-improve-air-quality-in-local-communities>

<sup>1748</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-uk-growing-vaccine-capabilities>

<sup>1749</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>1750</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>1751</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>

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>1752</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>1753</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>1754</sup> The study aims to provide information on communicable disease spread and advances efforts to achieve section 3 of SDG 3.

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>1755</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>1756</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>1757</sup> The funding's focus on the health workforce in developing countries 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>1758</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>1759</sup> The centre and funding aid the research and development process for medicine and further efforts towards section B of SDG 3.

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<sup>1752</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>1753</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>1754</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>

<sup>1755</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>1756</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>1757</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>1758</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>1759</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>

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>1760</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>1761</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.

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>1762</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>1763</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>1764</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>1765</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>1766</sup> The aid allows the Red Cross to provide medication and healthcare access promoting section eight of SDG 3.

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<sup>1760</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>1761</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>

<sup>1762</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>1763</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>1764</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>1765</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>1766</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>

On 3 October 2023, the Secretary of State Barclay announced GBP30 million for technology implementation at the NHS.<sup>1767</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>1768</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.

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>1769</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>1770</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>1771</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>1772</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>1773</sup>

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<sup>1767</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>1768</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>

<sup>1769</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>1770</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>1771</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>1772</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>1773</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>

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>1774</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>1775</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.

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>1776</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>1777</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>1778</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>1779</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>1780</sup> The action addresses section four of SDG 3 by aiding reducing premature mortality from a non-communicable disease through early diagnosis.

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<sup>1774</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>1775</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>

<sup>1776</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>1777</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>1778</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>1779</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>1780</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>

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>1781</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>1782</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 for a legally binding Pandemic Accord to mitigate public health threats.<sup>1783</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>1784</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>1785</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>1786</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>1787</sup> The scheme saves a projected GBP14 billion by increasing medicine affordability, advancing section eight of SDG 3.

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<sup>1781</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>1782</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>

<sup>1783</sup> UK Statement at 7th Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, Government of the United Kingdom (Geneva) 7 November 2023. Access Date: 9 December 2023.

<sup>1784</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>1785</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>1786</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>1787</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>



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>1788</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 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>1789</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>1790</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>1791</sup> By mitigating contamination and reducing water borne disease spread, this funding addresses section three and section nine of SDG 3.

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<sup>1788</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)

<sup>1789</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>1790</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>1791</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>

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.

*Analyst: Jacob Rudolph*

### **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>1792</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>1793</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>1794</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>1795</sup> This measure, aimed at making essential medications more affordable, advances UHC by improving access to healthcare.

On 9 June 2023, the HHS announced a new USD15 million loan repayment program to strengthen the pediatric health care workforce.<sup>1796</sup> This initiative aims to bolster the availability and quality of pediatric care, particularly

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<sup>1792</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>1793</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>1794</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>1795</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>

<sup>1796</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>

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>1797</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>1798</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>1799</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>1800</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>1801</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.

On 24 June 2023, the Biden-Harris administration reaffirmed its commitment to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights globally.<sup>1802</sup> This pledge, highlighting a focus on comprehensive healthcare, aligns

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<sup>1797</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>1798</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>1799</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>1800</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>1801</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>

<sup>1802</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>

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>1803</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>1804</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>1805</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>1806</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>1807</sup> This program aims to improve public health response and accessibility, enhancing UHC and SDG 3 section three targets to combat communicable diseases.

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>1808</sup> This

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<sup>1803</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>1804</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>1805</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>1806</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>1807</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>

<sup>1808</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>

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>1809</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>1810</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, invested USD11 million to expand medical residencies in rural communities.<sup>1811</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>1812</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>1813</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>1814</sup> This funding aims to address 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.

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<sup>1809</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>1810</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>1811</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>1812</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>1813</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>1814</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>

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>1815</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>1816</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>1817</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>1818</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>1819</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>1820</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>1815</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>1816</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>1817</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>1818</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>1819</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>1820</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>1821</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>1822</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>1823</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>1824</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>1825</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>1826</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>1821</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>1822</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>1823</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>1824</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>1825</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>1826</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>1827</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>1828</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>1829</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>1830</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>1831</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>1827</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>1828</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>1829</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>1830</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>1831</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>1832</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>1833</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>1834</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>1835</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>1836</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>1837</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>1832</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>1833</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>1834</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>1835</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>1836</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>1837</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>1838</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>1839</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.

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 7 specific targets within the SDG 3. These actions releasing comprehensive plans to tackle sexually transmitted infections, implementing cost-reduction measures for prescription drugs, and enhancing 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, United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wyatt McConnell*

### **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>1840</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>1841</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.

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<sup>1838</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>1839</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>1840</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>1841</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>

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>1842</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>1843</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>1844</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>1845</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.

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>1846</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>1847</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>1848</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.

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<sup>1842</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>1843</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>1844</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>1845</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/>

<sup>1846</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>1847</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/20230707IPRO2427/covid-19-parliament-adopts-roadmap-to-better-prepare-for-future-health-crises>

<sup>1848</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>

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>1849</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>1850</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>1851</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>1852</sup> The measures, including better monitoring of chemicals and detection of viruses, address section nine and section D of SDG 3.

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>1853</sup>

On 9 October 2023, Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs met in Luxembourg and approved multiple conclusions regarding mental health.<sup>1854</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>1855</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>1856</sup> The funding supports

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<sup>1849</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>1850</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>1851</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>1852</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>

<sup>1853</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>1854</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>1855</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>1856</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>

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>1857</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>1858</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>1859</sup> The measures seek to decrease maternal and child mortality through communicable disease reduction, thereby addressing sections one, two, and three of SDG 3.

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>1860</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>1861</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>1862</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.

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<sup>1857</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>1858</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>1859</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/>

<sup>1860</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>1861</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>1862</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>

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>1863</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>1864</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>1865</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>1866</sup> This funding aligns with section C of SDG 3.

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>1867</sup>

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. The EU demonstrated strong action towards achieving UHC and ten sections of SDG 3.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Hannah Cluroe*

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<sup>1863</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>1864</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>1865</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>1866</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>

<sup>1867</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>