

G7 Development 2026: an unfinished agenda for health equity

As part of the G7 French presidency, G7 Development Ministers gathered last week to agree on a new approach to development assistance.

We welcome the fact that a specific deliverable was conceived to address the current issues related to global health financing. In a geopolitical landscape marked by a questioning of multilateralism, this is an encouraging sign that G7 members agreed to rightfully recognise health as a driver of mutual development. However, the resulting [Framework for Promoting Health Sovereignty Financing and Self-Reliance](#) risks failing equity requirements if the international public financing flows' trajectory is not meant as a comprehensive response to the current crisis of global health financing.

Important steps on sovereignty and coordination

Considering that half of the world's population is still lacking access to essential health services, we appreciate the G7's commitment to rectify this injustice by ensuring that everyone can access quality health services. Areas for improvement are well identified, as public development banks' contribution to the health sector is long overdue, and domestic resource mobilisation is paramount to health sovereignty. The support to continued development of surge financing tools for medical countermeasures (MCMs) demonstrate the G7 members' sense of responsibility in protecting the most vulnerable populations and the global health security in times of crisis. The overall call for coordination through common protocols, compacts and platforms is welcome. It should build on added values of existing Global Health actors and initiatives to increase efficiency rather than focusing solely on reducing fragmentation. In this regard, we commend the call to align financing solutions to national priorities established not only at government level, but by a whole-of-country approach, including by guaranteeing meaningful participation of CSOs and communities.

Persistent equity gaps

While the Framework advances important principles, the G7 does not sufficiently commit to mobilise its own financial capacity, which should be better aligned with its ambition for development. As a reminder, the Abuja declaration called upon donor countries to provide 0,7% of the GNI as ODA. Health sovereignty and global solidarity are not opposites, but two expressions of the same commitment to prosperity and health security. We regret that the Framework does not reflect the need, highlighted in the communiqué, to prioritize ODA for the most vulnerable countries and for essential sectors, including health and nutrition, while 30% of health spending in LMICs currently come from external resources.

Besides, effective domestic resource mobilisation cannot be achieved without equitable reforms freeing fiscal space. Measures such as debt suspension in health emergencies and progressive health taxation should be prioritized. Commitments to innovation lack safeguards for equitable access, with no clear role defined for global health initiatives or civil society. To ensure that R&D and local manufacturing truly lead to health equity, G7 countries should commit to directing public investments exclusively toward initiatives that respond to public health needs, are subject to robust and equitable

access requirements, and enable fair and effective technology transfer. Crucially, the Framework omits a rights-based approach to health, overlooking specific needs of women, girls and key populations.

From commitments to accountability

Civil society remains dedicated to monitor commitments to action formulated by the G7 members. In this regard, we invite all global health partners to coordinate with CSOs in the design, implementation and evaluation of the protocols for coordinated surge financing mechanisms, the Global Co-Financing Platform, and the National Health Compacts. In the lead-up to the World Health Assembly but also to the Evian Summit, we urge G7 countries to adhere to measurable indicators of progress set within a clear implementation timeline.

[Global Health Advocates](#) is an NGO aimed at fighting health inequalities worldwide through advocacy. Together with [Impact Santé Afrique](#), it is co-chairing the C7 Global Health Working Group. You can access the Working Group's recommendations on global health here: [Achieving global health equity: a C7 call to solidarity, resilience and inclusion](#).