According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVID-19 pandemic has led to 14.9 million excess deaths and cost 336.8 million years of life lost globally in 2020 and 2021. The overall death toll of the pandemic is even higher as it has indirectly increased mortality through mechanisms such as disruptions to healthcare services and changes in care-seeking behaviors. It is emerging respiratory pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, multi-resistant bacteria, or highly pathogenic viruses like Ebola; it has never been easier for pathogens to spread than in today’s mobile, interconnected world. In order to identify and address health hazards in good time, an efficient public health system is indispensable. The Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the national public health institute for Germany, cooperates with partners around the world to strengthen public health systems and thus improve global health protection.

Since 2016, most of RKI’s international projects have been funded through the Global Health Protection Programme (GHPP). The Robert Koch Institute continues to play a key role in the implementation of GHPP’s second phase which runs from 2023 to 2025. It implements 25 projects by utilising the interdisciplinary expertise available in various departments of the institute. The second phase of the Programme builds on lessons learned from the first phase of the programme from January 2017 to December 2019. The programme promotes networking, exchange, and close collaboration between German experts and public health actors internationally. Around 40 projects under the GHPP aim to strengthen public health capacities at national, regional, and international level. A particular focus is on the prevention, preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

The Global Health Protection Programme (GHPP) is an initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Health started in 2016 in response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH assumes the function of the secretariat in the second phase of the programme from January 2023 to December 2025. The programme promotes networking, exchange, and close collaboration between German experts and public health actors internationally. Around 40 projects under the GHPP aim to strengthen public health capacities at national, regional, and international level. A particular focus is on the prevention, preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

Today seven German institutions contribute their specific expertise and long-standing experience:

- Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM)
- Paul-Ehrlich-Institute (Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines, PEI)
- Research Centre Borstel, Leibniz Lung Centre (FZB)
- Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, FLI)
- Paul-Ehrlich-Institute (Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines, PEI)
- Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

The projects are implemented in partnership with international and regional public health actors such as WHO and Africa CDC, and bilaterally with partners primarily on the African continent and in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The projects address the thematic areas as follows:

- Surveillance and reporting
- Laboratory diagnostics
- Digital solutions
- Outbreak management
- Strengthening of public health systems
- Clinical management
- Resolution and international agreements
- Monitoring and evaluation of medicinal products
- Building of general protection equipment for high consequence events in ministries in Bonn, Kassel, Berlin, and Hamburg

In order to increase the impact and sustainability of the programme, the following measures are implemented:

- 1-year strategic projects strive to establish and expand longer-term partnerships for strengthening public health capacities and institutions with partner countries.
- 3-year projects respond to ad-hoc needs, pilot the implementation of innovations or serve as precursor to potential strategic projects.
- More information on the RKI led projects in the second phase of the Global Health Protection Programme can be found in this flyer and online (www.rki.de/ghpp-en).

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1. **WHO CC GOARN II**
   - Building On Building Up: 2023–WHO
   - Strengthening capacities of national TB programmes in South and East Africa

2. **CARM**
   - 2023–2025: Namibia
   - Capacity building in applied public health research in 4MIP partner countries

3. **COPE**
   - 2023–2025: Nigeria
   - The community-based One Health participatory and empowerment strategy for One Health interventions

4. **EFPO-CDC**
   - 2021–2024: Rwanda
   - Efficiency by simplification - Center of Excellence: Construction of a high-level isolation unit and rationalization of training

5. **EMIS**
   - 2023: Guinea and Mozambique: Extension of internet-based health and behaviour surveys among men having sex with men in Eastern European and Central Asian countries and strengthening respective capacities in Western Balkan countries

6. **EMT TTT**
   - 2023–2025: Indonesia, Namibia, Uganda
   - Emergency Medical Teams: Twinning, training, transfer of knowledge

7. **Future International UKR**
   - 2023: Ukraine
   - Strengthening clinical management of intensive care and infectious disease patients during Ukraine war using telemedicine and web-based learning

8. **IDEAnet**
   - 2023–2025: Sri Lanka
   - Establishment of a Sri Lankan One-Health laboratory using sequencing and bioinformatics for GHPP partner countries

9. **PROTECt II**
   - 2023–2025: Africa CDC
   - Strengthening genomic surveillance: Exchange of knowledge and trainings on next generation sequencing and bioinformatics for CHFP partner countries

10. **Unicaire**
    - 2021–2024: Ukraine
    - Assessing and increasing vaccine readiness in Sub-Saharan Africa

11. **WASP**
    - 2023–2025: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
    - Western Balkan strategic partnership for health protection

12. **WHO CC AMR II**
    - 2023–2025: WHO
    - Lead coordination of WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Network

13. **WHO CC COARM II**
    - 2023–2025: WHO
    - Operation of WHO Collaborating Centre for the Global Outbreak and Response Network (COARM)

14. **ZRM TB**
    - 2023–2025: Poland
    - Cross-border management of tuberculosis between Poland and Germany