The Netherlands’ global health R&D

The Netherlands largely funds product development partnerships for global health

The Netherlands’ contributions to development funding for research and development (R&D) on poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs), referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile, stood at US$24 million in 2017, as reported to the G-FINDER.

This makes the Netherlands the seventh-largest donor to global health R&D. Financing for global health R&D reported by the Netherlands dropped from US$17 million in 2014 to US$5 million in 2015, before increasing again in 2016 and 2017 to US$24 million. These increases were driven by strengthened support to product-development partnerships (PDPs): they received 100% of funding in 2017.

Currently, the Netherlands channels its funding for global health R&D through the PDP III Fund, which has a total budget of €86 million (US$97 million) for 2015 to 2020. PDP I and II had total budgets of €150 million (US$169 million), between 2006 and 2014. The fund focuses on the development and availability of affordable and effective medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and innovative products for neglected diseases, with the aim of combating poverty and inequality. Six organizations have been selected to receive funding from PDP III: the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM; US$8 million in 2017 according to G-FINDER), the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI; US$4 million), the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi; US$4 million), TB Alliance (US$3 million), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV; US$3 million), and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND; US$2 million).

Dutch global health R&D focused on HIV/AIDS (US$11 million, or 47% of its total funding), kinetoplastids (US$4 million, or 15% of total funding), and tuberculosis (US$4 million, or 15%), and Malaria (US$3 million, 12%).

The Netherlands focuses its support to global health R&D on PDPs as they contribute to its development agenda, ‘Investing in Global Prospects’, as well as the ‘Roadmap on neglected diseases’. This roadmap is part of the ‘Topsector Life Sciences & Health’, one of nine ‘Topsectors’ set apart by the government as a joint venture between the Dutch private sector and research centers to excel internationally. ‘Solutions to neglected and poverty-related diseases’ is one of the ten roadmaps within the ‘Topsector Life Sciences and Health’. The Dutch government engages with the private sector to ensure that by 2025, the Dutch private sector working in life sciences and health will spend more than 10% of its revenue on R&D.’

MFA sets strategy; Netherlands Enterprise agency manages funds related to global health R&D

According to G-FINDER data, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), specifically the Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGIS), is the largest funder of global health R&D, channeling virtually all (99.5%) of total health R&D funding in 2017. The remaining 0.5% comes from the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research – Global Development Division (WOTRO). Within DGIS, the Social Development Department (DSO) develops policies related to global health. Within DSO, the Health and AIDS Division (DSO/GA) is responsible for the PDP funds (including the current PDP III). DSO/GA reviews proposals together with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The MFA commissioned RVO, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, to manage the PDP III and LS&H4D funds on its behalf.

Further information: G-FINDER

G-FINDER is a data source developed by Policy Cures Research that provides information on global investments into R&D for neglected diseases. Figures in this section are based on the G-FINDER survey, which covers basic research and product-related R&D (drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics) for a select group of diseases. The G-FINDER scope has been defined by an expert committee, in line with three criteria: the disease disproportionately affects people in developing countries, there is a need for new products, and the commercial incentives are insufficient to attract R&D from private industry.

For more information: www.policycuresresearch.org
THE NETHERLANDS' R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES

US$ millions; in 2017 prices

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