South Korea’s global health R&D

**Global health R&D is not a strategic priority; limited funding focuses on vaccine development and typhoid**

Research and development for poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs; referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile) is not a focus of South Korea’s development assistance for health. The South Korean government spent US$2.7 million in 2017, according to the 2018 G-FINDER report, produced by Policy Cures. Despite not being a top donor, this funding is significant an increase over the US$550,000 it invested in 2016.

In 2017, most funding (US$2 million) went to the Seoul-based International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for a Product Development Partnership (PDP) dedicated to research in vaccine development and delivery for partner countries. The remaining US$723,000 (one-quarter of all R&D funding) went to the Korean Institute of Tuberculosis, a government research institution. These figures may differ from the trend numbers presented in the chart due to changes in the scope of the G-FINDER survey from year to year.

In 2019, South Korea plans to increase its support to the IVI and has budgeted KRW6.1 billion (US$5 million) in core funding, and an addition KRW5 billion (US$4 million) in earmarked funding for the establishment of the ‘Research Investment for Global Health Technology’ (RIGHT) Fund. The same level of funding (KRW6.1 billion in core contributions and KRW5 billion for the RIGHT Fund) is planned for 2020.

South Korea’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) takes on the lead role for disease control in South Korea. Within the CDC, the Risk Assessment and International Cooperation Division under the Emergency Operations Bureau manages operations in partner countries.

**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.
SOUTH KOREA’S R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES
US$ millions; in 2017 prices

Policy Cures Research, G-Finder Public Search Tool