

# STANDORT Gesundheit

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SPECIAL EDITION SOCIAL IMPACT

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**The Journey to Eliminate  
Sleeping Sickness**  
Successful partnerships bring hope

**One Health**  
World Health Summit with  
urgent appeals

**Healthier world through  
social responsibility**  
The social commitment of Sanofi

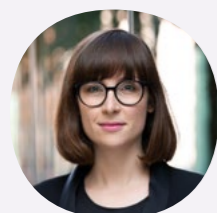
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# Dear Readers,

Our special edition of "Standort Gesundheit" focuses on Sanofi's corporate social responsibility. In this issue, we present several articles on how Sanofi lives up to this responsibility. We are also pleased to present our new Social Impact Strategy. This strategy aims to make a significant contribution to health care in the world's poorest countries.

Our commitment is to build a healthier, more resilient world by improving access to health care for the world's poorest people and addressing broader unmet needs. Our strategy aims to stop global epidemics and meet the growing needs of patients suffering from non-communicable diseases. The complexity of the environment requires systemic solutions.

Two pillars of our strategy, presented in this issue, are the newly established Foundation S and the Global Health Unit (GHU). Foundation S focuses on the health needs of particularly vulnerable groups. For example, this new foundation is dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer and to the health of people in areas particularly affected by the effects of climate change (see page 4 for an interview with Vanina Laurent-Ledru, Director, Foundation S). Our Sanofi Global Health Unit (GHU) aims to improve access to healthcare in 40 of the lowest-income countries through a unique, self-sustaining, non-profit model (see page 17).

I hope you enjoy reading about it!

**Dr. Stefan Kentrup**  
Vice President Public Affairs,  
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## INTERVIEW

# FOUNDATION S – THE SANOFI COLLECTIVE

The new foundation supports the most vulnerable groups of the population struggling with health conditions due to climate change



**Vanina Laurent-Ledru**  
Director, Foundation S

In May last year, Sanofi launched its new philanthropic organization: Foundation S – The Sanofi Collective. In this interview, Vanina Laurent-Ledru, the Director of the Foundation S, gives us insight into its focus and working methods.

**Last May, Sanofi Announced the Creation of Foundation S – The Sanofi Collective. Could You Tell Us a Bit More About the Foundation and Its Mission?**

Sanofi's social commitment has a long tradition. Different actions, initiatives, and projects aim to improve the lives of people worldwide.

The challenges of our world today are vast and interconnected, and so we are renewing our commitment to continue to serve future generations. Its aim is to improve the lives of vulnerable populations by catalyzing community-based solutions and expanding access to medicines.

**What Are the Pillars of Your Commitment?**

Foundation S is committed to three priority areas: including climate change and its impact on health; childhood cancer; and sleeping sickness – a neglected tropical disease that continues to impact lives in remote regions of Africa. In addition, Foundation S supports displaced populations during times of crises through humanitarian aid and medicine donations.



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**What Is the Focus of the Childhood Cancer Legacy Program Pursued by the Previous Foundation?**

We have a legacy in fighting childhood cancer. Sanofi has been supporting the World Health Organization's (WHO) objective of achieving at least 60 percent survival for all children with cancer by 2030. Every three minutes, a child dies of cancer. This troubling fact is hard to face and is particularly true in countries where children have no or little access to quality care.

Foundation S addresses this inequality through its My Child Matters program (MCM), launched in 2005 to increase childhood cancer survival rates by providing financial support to families and children living with

cancer. The program aims to strengthen health care systems in low- and middle-income countries by improving their ability to diagnose and treat childhood cancers. MCM is a collaboration between partners, such as the Groupe Franco-Africain d'Oncologie Pédiatrique (GFAOP), the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), numerous nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and health care experts from hospitals across the world. Since 2005, MCM has provided support to 51 hospitals and NGOs in 33 countries, helping more than 140,000 children and training over 40,000 health care professionals. The program has been credited with considerably increasing survival outcomes. →

### You Previously Mentioned a Very Significant Topic – Climate Change. How Do You Connect the Phenomenon of Climate Change to the Mission of Foundation S?

The climate emergency is a health emergency. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year. Countries with weak health infrastructure will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.

Despite contributing the least to climate change, developing countries are the most vulnerable to its effects with severe weather changes impacting food security, access to water, sanitation, infrastructure, and the proliferation of vector-borne diseases – all contributing factors and determinants to health. Given the current and foreseeable health impacts of climate change, Foundation S launched its Climate Action & Health Resilience Strategy in 2022 with the aim to support vulnerable communities prepare,

adapt and build long-term resilience. To do this, Foundation S has identified areas of focus and prioritization. These include:

1. Locally led adaption initiatives to enhance community capacity to adjust and respond to the multidimensional impact of climate change on health
2. Locally led research and data initiatives to drive evidence-based advocacy and the documentation of community experiences impacted by climate change
3. Advocacy and awareness to initiate increased national and global action and policy change

An example of a current collaboration is with the NGO Friendship, where we are supporting the Gaibandha region in Bangladesh to create low-threshold access to health care (read more about this project in the infobox).

## Bangladesh: Mobile Clinics and a Boat Hospital Safeguard the Health of Two Million People

The Gaibandha region in northern Bangladesh is one of the poorest in the country. The people in this region live mainly from agriculture. At the same time, it is one of the regions most affected by both labor migration as well as migration due to climate change. As Gaibandha is surrounded by three rivers, massive floods, cyclones and riverbank erosion cause people to lose their livelihoods every year.

Foundation S supports the NGO Friendship association, which provides mobile health care. The boat hospital “Lifebuoy” as well as 50 mobile clinics were set up to be reached by people at their local food locations. Due to regular floods, these boats are the only way to access the village communities. In addition to the mobile hospitals, health care professionals are being trained to help provide care, specifically in the fields of gynecology, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, cardiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, and dental care. Access to diagnostics with laboratory facilities, an immunization program, and training is also provided. In addition, a nutrition program is also offered, especially for children, pregnant women, and nursing women.

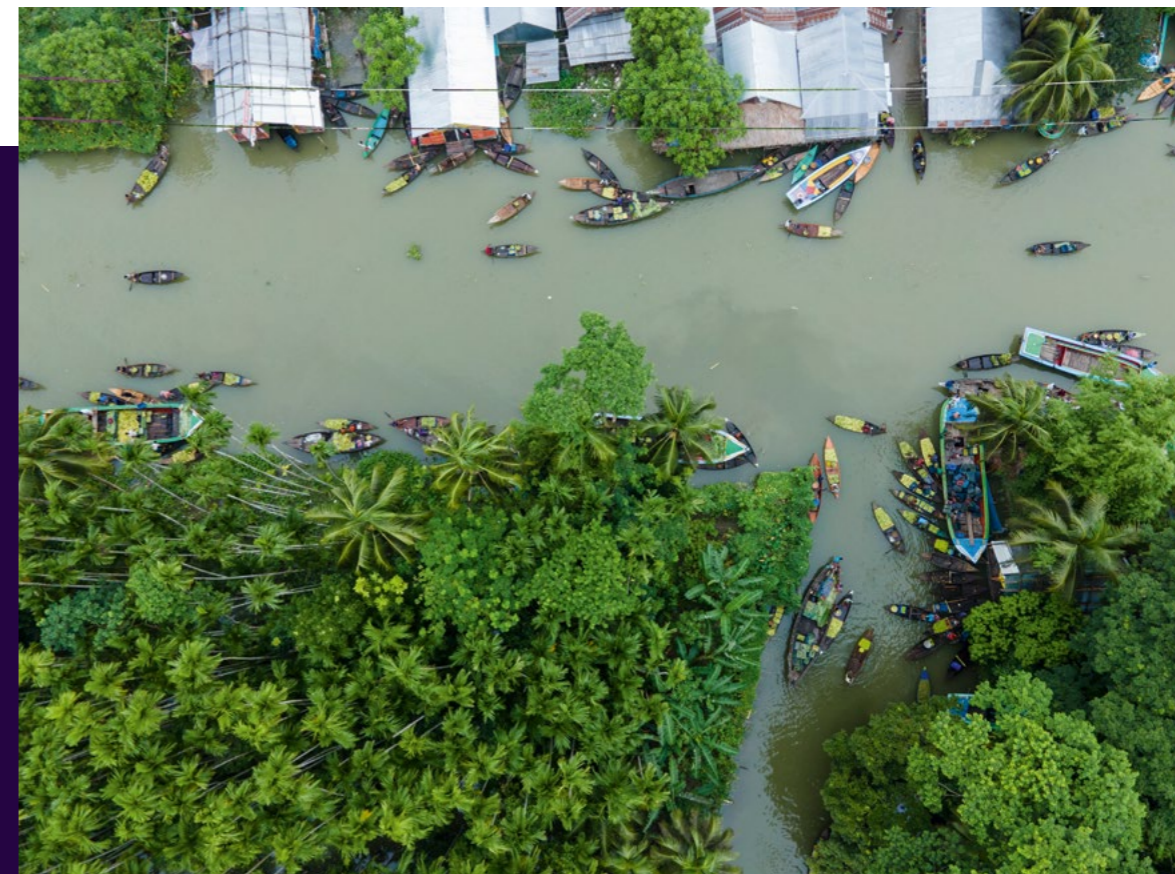
In February, we also launched a call for projects prioritizing regions most vulnerable to climate change, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Why this focus?

While also concentrating on the most vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and isolated communities, these areas are distinguished by their weak health systems combined with their high risk of climate events, including advancing desertification or unprecedented levels of rainfall. This has created a more favorable breeding ground for a number of health problems, including diarrheal diseases and cholera episodes, and has impacted significant determinants of health such as food security, access to water, and sanitation.

### You Mentioned That Foundation S Is Also Committed to Supporting Populations in Times of Crisis through Humanitarian Aid and Medicine Donations. What Have Been Some Key Milestones in the Foundation’s Work in This Area?

Foundation S provides humanitarian aid to communities and displaced populations during times of emergency and crises. In total in 2022, Foundation S donated essential medicines equivalent to 45 million daily treatments to treat 22 million patients.

One recent example is that we stand with the international community in opposing the Russian war and actively supporting the people of Ukraine. Thus, Foundation S has made donations to the Red Cross and is coordinating donations of essential medicines and vaccines to support Ukrainian patients and refugees.



Waterways in Bangladesh as seen from above

# THE JOURNEY TO ELIMINATE SLEEPING SICKNESS

## Successful partnerships bring hope to millions

**N**eglected tropical diseases affect people living in remote regions in the world, where poverty hangs over every home with poor sanitary conditions and a lack of local capacity to monitor, diagnose, and treat.

This makes Sanofi's development of a new treatment for one of these diseases, human African trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness, even more exciting.

The disease threatens the lives of more than 65 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. If not diagnosed and treated in time, sleeping sickness can prove fatal.

On January 28, 2020, after 20 years in development, the new oral drug fexinidazole for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness, found its way to one of the first patients to receive the medicine:

Guy Bongongo, a 12-year-old boy from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country most at risk from the disease – a key success for all partners involved.

Developed by Sanofi in partnership with the nonprofit organization, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), the new oral drug fexinidazole is the culmination of 20 years of medical research through international collaborations.

It is the first treatment indicated for both first stage (hemolympathic) and second stage (meningoencephalitic) disease, and its oral tablet format has revolutionized how the disease is managed. According to Dr. Viktor Kande, an advisor to the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo on neglected tropical diseases, this represents a significant improvement (for more information on sleeping sickness, see the infobox on page 10).

Patients previously had to travel to specialist facilities that were often far from their homes. Today, people can receive the ten-day course of medication from skilled health care professionals in their local communities.

The treatment with fexinidazole for this neglected tropical disease is playing a key role in achieving the World Health Organization's (WHO) global target of eliminating the disease.

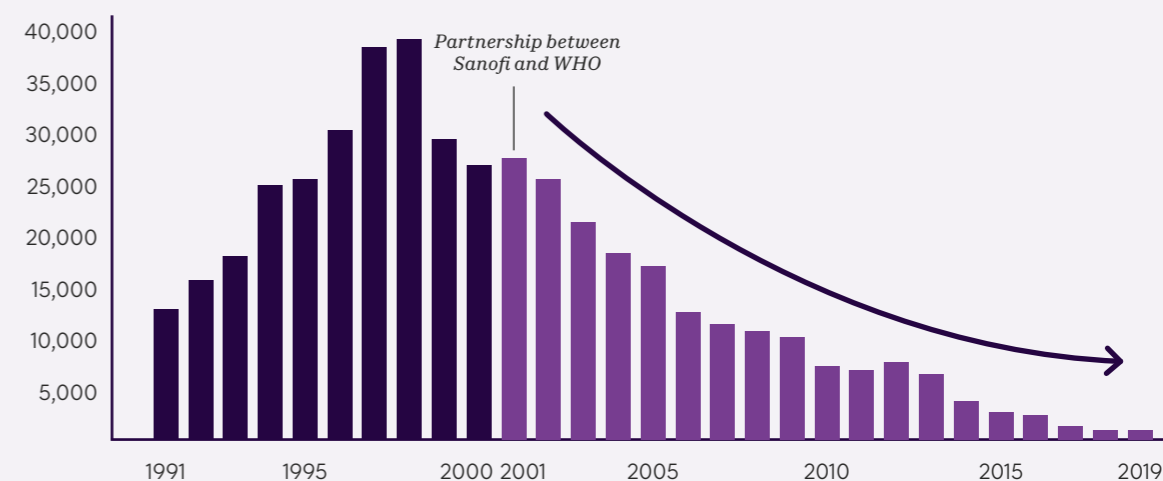
In December 2020, Sanofi renewed its long-standing partnership with the WHO to combat neglected tropical diseases and to sustainably eliminate sleeping sickness by 2030. Under the new partnership agreement, Sanofi contributes US\$25 million toward the prevention and treatment of neglected tropical diseases.

Sanofi CEO Paul Hudson underlined that Sanofi is committed to contributing further to the elimination of sleeping sickness,

including advancing research and development for vulnerable communities exposed to the disease.

In 2020, Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: "This decades-long collaboration exemplifies a successful public-private partnership that has created meaningful impact in several countries and has brought sleeping sickness closer to elimination. In a world severely disrupted by the current pandemic, Sanofi's renewed commitment and support to end this disease will immensely benefit and improve the lives of marginalized populations." →

Number of New Cases of Human African Trypanosomiasis



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)



### Areas Affected by Sleeping Sickness

*The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a high-risk area for the disease, accounting for more than 60 percent of the cases reported (in 2018).*

### What Is Sleeping Sickness?

Sleeping sickness, or human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), is a disease caused by a parasite called the *Trypanosoma brucei*, transmitted by a bite from the infamous tsetse fly. The WHO with the support of the collaboration program, through the national disease control programs, can ensure that all patients with sleeping sickness will receive complex parenteral treatment at no cost.

Through this collaboration, the number of HAT cases reported to the WHO has been reduced by approximately 97 percent between 2001 and 2019.

#### Sleeping Sickness Occurs in Two Stages:

**Stage 1:** The hemolymphatic phase includes nonspecific symptoms such as headaches and bouts of fever, tiredness, and muscular pains. This stage generally goes undiagnosed without active sleeping sickness surveillance. Without treatment, the parasite then invades the central nervous system, triggering the second phase.

**Stage 2:** The later, neurologic phase occurs when the parasite crosses the blood-brain barrier and can lead to serious sleep disorders, paralysis, progressive mental deterioration, confusion, behavioral changes, and, ultimately, results in death without effective treatment.

*Source: Sanofi*

The partnership between Sanofi and the WHO started in 2001 to support the screening, control, and treatment of sleeping sickness, one of the most neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) affecting the most underserved populations of sub-Saharan African countries. For 20 years, thanks to US\$100 million in financial support for the screening and control of patients as well as drug donations, the partnership has made it possible to attain some impressive achievements.

Since 2001, more than 40 million people have been screened for sleeping sickness and over 210,000 patients have been treated and saved. In 20 years, the number of cases of this disease – fatal if not treated – decreased by 97 percent.



# HEALTHIER WORLD THROUGH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Easier access to health care, innovative medicines,  
and sustainable economies**

**A**s a global health care company, Sanofi has a responsibility to play its part in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. Sanofi's integrated corporate social responsibility strategy aims to build a healthier, more resilient world by ensuring access to health care for the world's poorest people and focusing on broader unmet needs.

Our commitment to society is based on four essential pillars in which Sanofi is uniquely positioned to make a difference and have a greater impact: Affordable

Access, R&D for Unmet Needs, Planet Care, and In and Beyond the Workplace.

## 1. Affordable Access to Health Care

Still today, two billion people have no access to medicine and health care. We want to do our part to change that. In order to achieve such access goals, Sanofi employs an approach adapted to the specifics of both health-care systems and patient needs through commercial, social, and philanthropic models.

We are committed to working with governments to develop national health systems that ensure populations' access to health care. Therefore, we leverage our expertise and promote the integration of innovation, availability, affordability, quality care, and patient support. Sanofi also supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) promotion of universal health coverage to improve population coverage, service coverage, and financial protection.

Sanofi has achieved significant breakthroughs in battling neglected tropical and infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria. Over the last 20 years, we have applied a holistic approach to combating malaria. Since 2007, we have carried out 530 million treatments to support the WHO target to eradicate malaria by 2030.

Underserved populations are vulnerable to epidemics of infectious disease, but they are increasingly impacted by noncommunicable diseases, which kill 40 million people every year. Underlying our work is our commitment to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the target to reduce premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases by one-third by 2030 (SDG 3.4), and the target to strengthen the means of implementation and global partnership (SDG 17).

## 2. R&D for Unmet Needs

We provide innovative vaccines and medicines to eradicate polio and eliminate sleeping sickness, and we aim to reduce childhood cancer death. Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children, and our R&D teams work to develop innovative medicines for pediatric cancer.

Over the centuries, polio has left many people disabled. Less than 40 years ago, polio was endemic in 125 countries around the world, with more than 350,000 children paralyzed for life each year. A major change in defeating the disease came in 1988 with the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), led by the WHO. Since then, the number of people with paralysis has decreased by 99 percent, and there are now only two countries with endemic wild poliovirus transmission (Pakistan and Afghani-

stan). Sanofi has been involved in this fight from the beginning and continues to play a critical role in the delivery of polio vaccines. In 2021 alone, Sanofi delivered more than 50 million vaccine doses to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

We have been a key player in the fight against sleeping sickness since the 1950s. More recently, in 2001, we strengthened our involvement through a partnership with the WHO, which involved drug donation and financial support for capacity building and patient screening. Our common goal is to eliminate sleeping sickness by 2030. More information on research activities to date can be found on page 8.

## 3. Planet Care: Using Natural Resources with Care

We continue to reduce the environmental impact of our activities and products throughout their life cycle. To this end, we have set ourselves ambitious targets:

- 100 percent blister-free vaccine packaging: We will remove all preformed plastic packaging for syringe vaccines by 2027.
- 100 percent eco-design approach for all our new products by 2025.
- By 2030: Sanofi is committed to reach carbon neutrality across all operations and the entire value chain.
- By 2030: 100 percent carbon-neutral vehicle fleet.

Furthermore, we aim to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across all operations and the entire value chain by 2045. Sanofi in Germany achieved a 21 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from activities at sites in Frankfurt and Berlin from 2019 to 2020 alone. Beyond our greenhouse gas emissions, we want to positively impact the environment by, for example, reusing, recycling, or recovering more than 90 percent of waste by 2025. At the Frankfurt location, 85 percent of this is already happening today. →

# OUR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Planet Care: Using Natural Resources with Care



+4°C worst-case climate change scenario with significant impacts on health



Eco-design for all new products by 2025



Blister-free vaccine packs by 2027

100%



Renewable electricity on all sites by 2030



Carbon-neutral car fleet by 2030

## Affordable Access to Health Care Worldwide



Two billion people lack access to quality medicines and health care



Nonprofit business Sanofi Global Health Unit to provide 30 essential medicines to 40 of the world's poorest countries



Global access plan for all new products two years after launch



100,000 vials to be donated annually to patients with rare diseases

## In and Beyond the Workplace



Employee engagement is critical for Sanofi's success



50:50 gender ratio in top 2,000 leadership teams by 2025



Company-wide volunteering program



Social impact integrated in leaders' career development

## R&D for Unmet Needs



Vulnerable communities still in need worldwide



Eliminate sleeping sickness by 2030



Eradicate polio



Develop treatments for childhood cancers

## 4. In and Beyond the Workplace

For Sanofi, living diversity means respecting people in their differences and giving them room for creativity and participation. Diversity in culture, education, work experience, gender, age, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual identity, disability, or religion is part of our self-image. Corporate social responsibility is part of the career development of leaders to citizens. Through volunteering and donations, Sanofi and its employees support social and economic engagement. Our goal is a 50:50 gender ratio of the top 2,000 management positions by 2025. We were the first company to collaborate with the FidAR initiative (Frauen in die Aufsichtsräte) which campaigns for more women on supervisory boards. The common

goal is to campaign for more women in management positions and thus contribute to the equal participation of men and women in professional life. Today, 43 percent of our managers and 40 percent of our senior executives worldwide are women.

Furthermore, Sanofi joined UN Global Compact, renewing its support in 2020, and ensures compliance with its ten principles on human rights, environmental protection, labor standards, and anti-corruption. →

*»At Sanofi, we believe we have a responsibility to make a difference to the health of our communities and for the care of the planet.«*

*Paul Hudson  
Chief Executive Officer, Sanofi*





## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Supporting a Healthy Life – This Is Our Contribution to the Social Challenges of Our Time

Today, we are faced with societal challenges, such as population growth and aging, differences in level wealth, climate change, as well as technological challenges and progress, such as the advancement of digital technology and significant opportunities. In this context of profound upheavals, companies are not only required to be efficient financially, but they must explain how they are supporting these changes and demonstrate their positive contribution to society. Sanofi is dedicated to supporting people through their health challenges. We are a global biopharmaceutical company focused on human health. We prevent illness with vaccines, provide innovative treatments to fight pain, and ease suffering. We stand by the few who suffer from rare diseases and the millions with long-term chronic conditions. Sanofi supports the the WHO's

promotion of universal health coverage to improve population coverage, service coverage, and financial protection, as well as awareness-raising campaigns, the most effective tool to reduce the burden of disease. Sanofi also leverages its expertise and promotes an approach integrating innovation, availability, affordability, and quality care and patient support.

In this context, Sanofi contributes in particular to the SDG 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages,” in particular the SDG 3.3 on infectious diseases thanks to our portfolio of vaccines, as well as SDG 3.4 relating to noncommunicable diseases thanks to our range of medicines treating diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and rare diseases.

# NEW CHANCES FOR 40 COUNTRIES

## How Sanofi supports health-care systems in the world's most disadvantaged regions

Sanofi's Global Health Unit (GHU), launched in April 2021, is a pioneering nonprofit business unit with a remit to increase access to 30 medicines. These medicines are produced by Sanofi and considered essential by the World Health Organization (WHO) for patients in some of the least developed regions of the world.

Sanofi's GHU operates in 40 countries, including those with the lowest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. It is a self-financed business model to ensure it remains sustainable over time.

In addition to improving access to innovative medicines, we partner with local health authorities and care providers to train health-care professionals and raise disease awareness. We also help strengthen health-care systems and care delivery to patients so they are sustainable over time for diseases that require chronic treatment and complex care.

Sanofi's commitment to society and improving access to health care is not a recent phenomenon. Since 2007, Sanofi has been working with intergovernmental agencies (IGAs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in providing medicines at affordable prices or through donation programs to treat malaria, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, and sleeping sickness. Through the GHU, we are also focused on preventing and treating noncommunicable diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer.

This is particularly important as deaths from noncommunicable diseases are on the rise. Noncommunicable diseases accounted for 74 percent of deaths globally in 2019. The world's biggest killer is ischemic heart disease, responsible for 16 percent of the world's total deaths. Since 2000, the largest increase in deaths has been for this disease, rising by more than 2 million to 8.9 million deaths in 2019.

*»The launch of the Impact® brand and our Impact Funds are our latest steps to make our medicines available and to help bring quality, sustainable health care to people in the world's most vulnerable populations.«*

Jon Fairest,  
Head of the Global Health  
Unit, Sanofi

# DIABETES CARE FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

**Serving the needs of patients with noncommunicable diseases**

**A**s a global pandemic, approximately six percent of the world's population – more than 420 million people – live with either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

Its prevalence has massively been on the rise in low- and middle-income countries compared to countries with high incomes. Therefore, there is a renewed attention to diabetes on the global health-care agenda. In 2021, analog insulins were eventually included in the World Health Organization's (WHO) List of Essential Medicines. This will help to ensure that effective treatment options are available for many more people living with diabetes. At Sanofi, our ambition is to enable better diabetes care for underserved population

in the lowest-income countries. We thereby pursue different approaches according to the specificities of the respective countries to support patients living with the disease.

One of these approaches is taken by the Sanofi Global Health Unit (GHU), our nonprofit unit, which aims to provide 40 countries with the lowest income per capita with 30 medicines, which are defined as essential by WHO (see page 17). This includes the distribution of insulin glargine under our Impact® brand. Impact® is the GHU brand of standard-of-care medicines produced by Sanofi, which are dedicated to nonprofit distribution to at-risk populations in the world's most impoverished countries.

We have set ourselves the goal of improving diabetes care for 300,000 insulin-dependent patients by 2030. However, as diabetes is a chronic, lifelong disease, patients need support beyond the treatment.

Therefore, we implement solutions with our local partners, such as Unité Numérique Francophone Mondiale (UNFM), the Ministries of Health of Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon or the Chellaram Diabetes Institute and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). Together with this network, we realize patient support initiatives and health system-strengthening measures.

One tangible example is the setup of 31 dedicated medical structures, so-called "Diabetes and Hypertension Clinics" in Cameroon, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire. This project not only allows us to train

health-care professionals in diagnosing the disease and caring for patients with it, but it also lets us implement training materials. Up to today, 1,234 health-care professionals have been trained and 54,643 patients treated. This will have a sustainable impact on the quality of care and management of diabetes and its side effects.

The Sanofi BioCampus in Frankfurt makes a special contribution here. Here, among others, insulins are produced for the supply of the 40 lowest-income countries.

*Experts from Benin, Djibouti, Niger, Togo and Uganda visited our Insulin manufacturing plants in Frankfurt in preparation for the launch of Sanofi's Global Health unit's Impact® brand*



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WORLD  
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Making the

# Choice for *Health*

# A SUMMIT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

## In search of innovative solutions to global challenges

*The World Health Summit, which took place in Berlin from October 16 to 18, brought together representatives from the areas of politics, business, science, and civil society. More than 50,000 people worldwide took part in the World Health Summit online and via the channels of the World Health Organization, with a further 4,100+ visitors from 141 countries attending the event in Berlin in person. Among the speakers were over 30 ministers from countries all over the world.*

For the very first time the World Health Summit (WHS), with Sanofi participating as a strategic partner, was held in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) under the patronage of the heads of government of Germany and France, Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Emmanuel Macron.

The mission of the WHS is to identify innovative solutions to improve global health and to implement global health as a central political pillar. This is intended to advance the health debate in line with the UN

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under this year's motto "Making the Choice for Health," participants from around the world discussed pandemic preparedness, climate change, and digital transformation, among other things. Some 60 events hosted by high-caliber personalities were held and also broadcasted to global audiences online. Participants included António Guterres, General Secretary of the United Nations, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO, and also Sandra Gallina, Director-General for Health and Food Security at the European Commission.

# „ONE HEALTH“ IST DAS STICHWORT

## World Health Summit with urgent appeals

The world needs stronger, more resilient health-care systems. This is only possible through networking and cooperation. This core message radiated throughout the opening event of the World Health Summit (WHS) 2022, which was hosted together with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the first time. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to play a role, there was a clear focus on diseases such as polio.

The decisive statement was delivered by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the end of his speech, which was made in German: "Gesundheit ist ein Menschenrecht" (Health is a human right), stated the

Director-General of the WHO emphatically, and thus it should apply for all people everywhere, no matter where they live. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed just how disrupted and uncoordinated global health architecture is, he pointed out; it has even exacerbated the situation further still. The time has now come for a paradigm shift. "Taking global health to a new level means we need a new global agreement based on a common vision, a new global health architecture that is coherent and inclusive, and a new global approach that prioritizes promoting health and preventing disease, rather than only treating the sick," he claimed. →



*Leaders from politics, science and civil society at the opening ceremony of the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany*

### Moving from Alarm to Action

The WHS, which was first held in 2009 on the initiative of the Berlin Charité, was cohosted by WHO this year. In the words of the chairman of the Charité, Professor Heyo Kroemer: “We have an unusually close collaboration with the WHO,” referring to the joint foundation of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in the German capital.

However, not only the WHO but also representatives of the United Nations (UN) support the objectives of the summit. UN General Secretary António Guterres urged for “a move from alarm to action.” His appeal to the world community: “Let’s deliver the stronger health systems that every person deserves.”

All the speeches insisted that health cannot be viewed separately from other policy areas. Climate change, food security, animal welfare, habitation, transport, digital transformation – all these aspects interact with the issue of health. Sandra Gallina, Director-General for Health and Food Security at the European Commission stated: “Without health, there’s nothing else. No economy, no society.” She also appealed to a sense of community. The European Union (EU) is ready to play a leading role in the future EU strategy for global health.

### Networking and Cooperation Are Essential

Chancellor Olaf Scholz had similar views. “Networking and close cooperation even across national borders, is what counts – especially in the field of global health.” Scholz advocated for closer cooperation between different disciplines to obtain a better understanding of the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment – especially, but not only, when combating epidemics. “One health – that is the keyword.”

The German head of government in particular has taken up the battle against polio. This disease must “finally be consigned to the museum of medical history.” With EUR 35 million, the Federal Republic of Germany is playing its part in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). This is entirely in step with the aims of philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a donation of EUR 1.2 billion to the same initiative. It is a matter close to the heart of the couple behind the foundation. Following cases in the United States and Great Britain, polio has made its way back into the public limelight. “It’s horrifying to see children paralyzed by a disease that is totally preventable.”

### Commitment against Malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis

The French Minister of Health François Braun also advocated for a global approach. He explained that “France fully supports the ongoing processes to revive the international health regulations and to conclude a new international agreement on pandemics.” Europe can be a role model in global health, but it must also be open to ideas. As announced by French President Emmanuel Macron, his country will also invest more funds to combat malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis.

For the President of the WHS, Professor Axel Radlach Pries, an optimistic mood prevailed: “This planet is just too small for national and sectorial egoism. We have to work together, and the time is very short.” His appeal: “Please roll up your sleeves and start to act!”

*»Taking global health to a new level means we need a new global agreement based on a common vision (...).«*

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,  
Director-General, WHO

# ACHIEVING GOALS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

## Universal health coverage requires cooperation

**U**niversal health coverage (UHC) refers to the comprehensive provision of and access to health services, in short: Health care for all. According to the United Nations (UN), this goal should be reached globally in 2023. An expert panel at the World Health Summit (WHS) discussed how this can be achieved. The tenor: Partnerships are essential.

“The road is very long and bumpy,” noted Philippe Guinot of the US nonprofit organization PATH. He led the panel discussion “The Road to 2023: Are We Achieving Universal Health Coverage.” Gabriela Cuevas Barrón stressed the importance of the UN goal “Health is a right, not a privilege.” The representative of the global platform UHC2030 outlined what matters: The will of the political decision-makers must be clearly apparent. Other preconditions include the funding, plans for implementation, and partnerships.

### Turning Ambition into Action

Sanofi, a strategic partner of the WHS 2022, stands firmly behind this concept. “As a pharma company, we want to play a part,” confirmed Sandrine Bouter-Stref, Global Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Sanofi. “If we want to achieve universal health coverage, we must tackle both infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV, and noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, or cancer.”

Now is the time to act. Sanofi started its Global Health Unit (GHU) 18 months ago, which operates as a nonprofit organization. This unit works toward enabling the poorest countries in the world to gain access to the continuous provision of 30 medicines considered essential by the World Health Organization (WHO). →



*“With the Global Health Unit, we aim to provide the world’s poorest countries with continuous access to 30 vital medicines.” – Sandrine Bouttier-Stref, Global Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Sanofi*

This involves not merely the supply of medicines, but also a new approach to cooperation at a local level, said Bouttier-Stref, for example, by offering prevention courses for patients as well as basic and ongoing training for health-care specialists. In particular, Sanofi’s cooperation with local governments is geared toward making health-care systems more sustainable. This applies not just for the supply of medicines, but for the provision of health-care services in general. Universal health coverage can

only be achieved together, in cooperation with all stakeholders. Therefore, the public sector must also overcome its reluctance to cooperate with the pharmaceutical industry, which is still noticeable in many countries. The pharmaceutical industry has lots of expertise and also experience in cooperating with diverse partners in the health-care sector.

For Sanofi, it is not just about working with governments, nongovernmental organizations, academic

institutions, and other pharmaceutical companies. Cooperation in the field of logistics or digitization innovations has gained importance in order to accomplish access to care on the “last mile” – for example, in remote areas. Innovation in all aspects of care is key to universal health-care coverage, explained Bouttier-Stref. The focus should always be on those affected. “If we do not hear the patient, we will not succeed.” She stated that the will is there, but it is now a case of converting ambition into action.

### A Must: Basic Health Care

Panel participant Dr. Peter Kwame Yeboah is the Managing Director of the Christian Health Association of Ghana. His organization is a partner of the Ghanaian government. Based on his own experience, he said that cooperation between government agencies and nongovernmental organizations is immensely important. However, he warned that in a maze of partnerships, inefficient duplicate structures could quickly arise. The approach of health care for all should not be limited to acute or emergency situations. For Yeboah, prevention and primary health care are also essential.

Luis Pizarro, Managing Director of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, addressed neglected tropical diseases during the panel. “If you talk about tropical diseases, you now have to talk about neglected population groups,” he emphasized, with regard to the urgency of health care for all. Besides having to cope with their disease, patients must also put up with social stigmatization. Allison Cox of the Noncommunicable Disease Alliance, in turn, dealt with noncommunicable diseases in relation to the question of universal health care (UHC). She pointed out major differences in the global context: Only one out of every 20 adult diabetics in poorer countries has access to an appropriate degree of medical care, she said by way of example.

### A Seat at the Table for Those Affected

Differences do not only exist at a global level between poorer and richer countries, but also within countries themselves, said Loyce Pace, Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs in the US Ministry of Health. Her own country serves as a prime example. “We still need to marshal our collective resources for marginalized communities,” she said. She also encouraged the concept of gathering the affected patients around the table. The coronavirus pandemic has slowed down the endeavors in the area of UHC, she went on to add. For her, the next step is to get back on track, the road that – as Philippe Guinot said – is long and bumpy. The WHS gives cause for hope that this will succeed.

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***“We cannot change the world on our own – intelligence of the heart can only be collective.”***

Vanina Laurent-Ledru,  
Director, Foundation S

*Vanina Laurent-Ledru, Director, Foundation S (left) in conversation with Pape Amadou Gaye, Founder of the Baobab Institute (right), and Daouda Diouf, Foundation S (center)*

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# THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A HEALTH EMERGENCY

## Discussion on “Climate change and health equity” at the World Health Summit

Organized by Foundation S

**A**wa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State to the President of Senegal and former Minister of Health, reported on the concrete effects of climate change in her home country.

“People there are suffering from heavy rain. There is sometimes as much rain in one day as there usually is in a month,” she said. As a result, entire regions experience extreme flooding over long periods, making the dwellings almost uninhabitable. In contrast, other parts of the country are afflicted by total drought. The country map is shifting shape almost as we watch. “Diseases such as malaria and many others are on the rise. The work and support of people on the ground is more important than ever.” Director Vanina Laurent-Ledru underlines that Foundation S is committed to strengthening the link between humanitarian aid and development funding given Sanofi’s long-standing expertise in emergency aid. This is particularly important as only two percent of the global funds for climate change-related projects are devoted to the aspect of health care.

### Evidence of Climate Change Is Overwhelming

Professor Alan Dangour, the first Director for Climate and Health at the Wellcome Trust, a nonprofit foundation, stressed just how important it is to immediately take action. “We cannot have more evidence

on climate change than the extreme weather events have shown us this summer.” The health and social impact is tremendous. As a result of climate change, we not only expect geographical shifts, but also hunger catastrophes by 2050. This will have a great impact on humanity as a whole. “We know what is happening to the climate, but we have no idea how precisely we can translate it to health. We know far too little about that. One focus of our work is generating evidence to demand clear action from politicians.” At this point in time, it is no longer helpful to just talk, concrete measures must be implemented. Dangour continued: “We are experiencing competing crises. Climate change is here, and it is constantly evolving. It will change everything. We must put health at the heart of climate change,” he urges.

### Raises Global Awareness of the Topic of Health

The participants of the discussion also agreed that public health should be increasingly integrated into international policy agendas. The pandemic has made its contribution in this regard, but now the momentum must be maintained. One participant reminded her colleagues that climate change has meant not just a rise in the incidence of somatic diseases: The mental health, especially of young people in the affected regions is also an increasingly important issue.



“Diseases like malaria and many others are on the rise.” – the situation of Senegal as described by Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State to the President of Senegal

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