

EUROPEAN UNION

DONOR PROFILE 2023

**UNITED
FOR
GLOBAL
MENTAL
HEALTH**

EUROPEAN UNION

KEY FACTS:

% GNI/ODA 2021	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
n/a	US\$ 23.1 billion	N/A (US \$7.2 million channeled through European Commission in 2021)

The European Union Institutions' (EUI) provided US \$23.1 billion in official development assistance (ODA) in 2022. The EU institutions by themselves (i.e. without EU member states) ranked third among DAC members by volume of ODA spend. EU member states represented 45% of global ODA in 2021, spending a total US\$81.3 billion.

The 2023 EU Global Health Strategy emphasises mental health as a “rising challenge” with policy priorities to deliver better health and wellbeing of people across the life course, strengthen health systems and advance Universal Health Coverage, and prevent and combat health threats including pandemics.

In July 2019, Ursula von der Leyen was elected European Commission President. Her priorities for 2019-2024 include 1) further investments in research and innovation; 2) renewed focus on climate change; 3) increased investments in EU global leadership. Under the budget for 2021-27, most of the EU's ODA will be streamlined in a single instrument.

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The EU has been cited as a [top donor in global mental health](#). According to analyses ([2021 Gribble et al](#)), between 2006 and 2016 total development assistance to mental health (DAMH) accounted for US\$155.3 million, making the EU one of the five main donors during this period.

The Commission mobilised €9 million to support the mental health of people fleeing from Ukraine. This includes €7 million for IFRC to offer direct mental health and trauma support and a €2 million call for proposals for best practices in improving refugee and migrant mental health and psychological well being.

Some areas of mental health that have been funded in the past include: (1) an evaluation of best practices for dementia; 2) mental health in the workplace strategy assessments; 3) the creation of mental health brochures; 4) Mental Health Promotion Handbooks; and 5) the mental health research project EMERALD.



Further examples include strengthening primary and secondary mental health services in the West Bank and Gaza, and supporting Medecins du Monde's work to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to survivors of gender based violence. The EU (ECHO) is a member of the MHPSS donor group.

Mental health is included in the EU's development and global health strategies, although there is no standalone global mental health strategy.

DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

The EU has demonstrated a strong interest in mental health using a MHiap (mental health in all policies) approach. It has [long been dedicated to improving mental health](#).

In 2013, the Joint Action for Mental Health and Well-being was launched to create a framework for mental health action at the European level. This resulted in the creation of the [European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), launched in 2016. A yearly brochure, [EU Compass for Action](#), was also relaunched in 2016 monitoring policies and highlighting mental health projects and progress across Europe.

As a response to the mental health challenges posed by Covid-19, DG Santé set up a dedicated network space on its [Health Policy Platform](#). This allows health and social stakeholder organisations to exchange specific mental health practice and knowledge related to Covid-19. Co-ordinated by [Mental Health Europe](#), this virtual network includes a focus on the needs of vulnerable groups such as people who are homeless, have pre-existing conditions, or are elderly. The web space also holds a virtual library.

The European Commission [2023 Work Programme](#) promises a new approach to mental health as trailed in Ursula Von der Leyen's [2022 State of the Union](#) address.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- [Council of the European Union](#): Within this entity, the Foreign Affairs Council includes various Ministries from EU countries that meet annually to coordinate policies
- [DG SANTE](#): develops EU policy on food safety and public health
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations [ECHO](#) is responsible for humanitarian response
- The EU's development funding comes mainly from two sources: the European Development Fund ([EDF](#)) which provides funds for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and the Development Cooperation Instrument ([DCI](#)) which



provides funds primarily to countries in Asia and Latin America focusing on poverty reduction. The

- Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DG DEVCO) / [EuropeAid](#) is responsible for developing and implementing the EU's development policy and manages the EDF and DCI. DevCo has demonstrated interest in mental health but focuses on conflict and post-conflict countries

KEY DECISION MAKERS

President, European Commission: [Ursula von der Leyen](#)

President, European Council: [Charles Michel](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2020 the EU spent USD 9.1 billion on global health on COVID-19 related activities, of which USD 730 million were for health-related investments. The EU institutions provide the majority of its ODA bilaterally; in 2020 bilateral ODA was 99% of total ODA. The European Commission publishes calls for proposals [here](#).

GLOBAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

Funds supported by EU institutions:	
Global Fund	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
GAVI	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy (2021-2025) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
UNDP	UN lead agency on international development. The EU works with UNDP to support resilience and recovery from man-made and environmental crises, as well as supporting countries with climate change and biodiversity loss.
UNICEF	UN agency for children. EU-UNICEF collaboration focuses on mobilising resources for children and advocating for their fundamental rights; the UNICEF office in Brussels has strong relationships with EU institutions to push children's rights to the front of the EU's agenda.



World Food Programme	<p>The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change. In 2020 the EU institutions and its member states contributed nearly €2 billion to the WFP and €466 million from the European Commission alone.</p>
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KEY RESOURCES

- [EU Global Health Strategy](#)
- [The New European Consensus on Development \(2017\)](#)
- [European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing \(2016\)](#)
- European Commission [Calls for Proposals web page](#)
- [Development Co-operation profiles OECD: European Union institutions](#)