

MAV+ Rwanda

Supporting manufacturing and access to vaccines,
medicines and health technologies in Rwanda

September 2024

Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+) is a comprehensive support package tackling barriers to manufacturing and access to health products and technologies in Africa that is tightly aligned with African strategies and is supported by a broad and inclusive consortium of European actors.

Rwanda is on track to become a regional hub for vaccine manufacturing and medical innovation, thanks to the strong vision of the government, and with the support of Team Europe Initiative MAV+

Key MAV+ collaborations and activities

Regulatory strengthening for lifesaving, quality products

In Rwanda, MAV+ supports the national regulator, the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority, to effectively regulate the market and ensure quality and safety of products through the provision of laboratory equipment and capacity building.

Kigali, the capital of the country, is poised to host the headquarters of the African Medicines Agency (AMA). Team Europe and the European Medicines Agency are working closely with African partners such as the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to support the effective establishment of the AMA. For instance, the first-of-its-kind twinning project pairs Rwanda FDA with Team Europe actors, including member state regulatory bodies, institutions and universities, to support Rwanda FDA in this regard.

At the regional level, MAV+ is working with the East African Community on regulation, integration and skills development.



Boosting skills and jobs

MAV+ also works towards ensuring that the country is well equipped to provide the necessary workforce for the industry in the medium term. This includes the launch of a new MSc in Biotechnology programme between the University of Rwanda in partnership with European universities.

More MSc and PhD programmes will be developed in the near future, as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) paths for staff in support roles.

Fostering research and innovation

The initiative will also strengthen local research and development, including through cooperation with European research institutes clinical trials, set-up of a pilot biobank and support to the set-up of the first Biosciences Park in Rwanda.

It will nurture the right environment for start-ups through a biotech accelerator and seed fund. MAV+ is also supporting job creation in the pharma sector through the provision of blended learning to university graduates and pharma employees by European universities, the expansion of The Rwandan Bioeconomy Acceleration and Skills Development Centre (a biotech accelerator for young entrepreneurs and startups), business-to-business matchmaking and capacity building for the regulatory authorities.

Contributors

MAV+ actions in Rwanda and EAC are mainly funded by the European Commission, Belgium and Germany.

National and regional partners

Partners include Rwanda Ministry of Health, Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority, Rwanda Medical Supply, University of Rwanda, Akagera Medicines Ltd, Uvu Bio and East African Community.

Additional Team Europe stakeholders

Stakeholders include Enabel, Expertise France, GIZ, SIDA, Karolinska Institute, and KfW as well as National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM) of France, Sciensano of Belgium, State Medicines Control Agency of Lithuania, Medical Products Agency of Sweden, National Organization for Medicines of Greece, and Austrian Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG) and Austrian Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (AGES).

Rwanda

**€73.9
million***

11 projects

*including €40 million in Special Measures funding from the European Commission

**Regional economic
community (East
African Community)**

**€35
million**

2 projects