

# Be-cause health ITM project 2022-2026

## I. Narrative

---

### **Objective : Policy support and knowledge dissemination**

In the field of policy support and dissemination of knowledge and ideas, the **ITM program** aims at providing expertise and briefs to DGD, other Belgian actors and south stakeholders (managers and decision-makers), and the global health community. Policy research, knowledge management and the formulation of policy advice to DGD and other Belgian or international actors will mainly be provided by an interdisciplinary core team constituted along the thematic requests of DGD. The policy support will furthermore be fed, at the Belgian level, by the **Be-cause health** platform which unites almost all health development actors. (...). For policy advice to be relevant and effective there must be a demand. We are convinced that "Better Health for a more just and equitable world" for many reasons (e.g. global security issues) will stay a political priority in the years to come. (...) [Be-cause Health] coordinates relations [amongst] Belgian actors, South partners and key players and forums on the international/global health scene to respond to this demand. Coordination of policy support will allow further development of synergies and complementarities with Belgian actors (ngo-federations, universities, ...)

The Be-cause health platform gathers Belgian actors involved in development cooperation for health, coordinates the Belgian contribution to global health policies and the policy debate on the right to health & Health Care for All. Be-cause health stimulates trust, harmonisation and networking competencies between Belgian actors involved in health development. Be-cause health output includes information sharing via a website, dissemination of news, policy briefs and policy advice, organised thematic meetings and seminars and participation in international meetings and workshops.

An in depth evaluation, followed by a participative workshop of key stakeholders in February 2021 underlie the present proposal.

### **Our vision**

Be-cause health aims at social protection and equitable access to good quality responsive health services for all, and in particular the most vulnerable people, who are considered as right holders, embedded in strong, resilient and sustainable health systems. It is recognised on national and international level for its expertise in these matters.

### **Our mission**

Be-cause health is a pluralistic open platform, providing a place for exchange and capitalisation of technical knowledge and experience as well as scientific evidence on international health and development cooperation and its application in the field. Be-cause health ensures a more effective Belgian contribution to global health policies and the policy debate based on the right to health and healthcare for all, and on the acceptance of reality as a complex, adaptive system influenced by multiple determinants. The platform stimulates mutual trust, understanding and cooperation between all stakeholders involved in Belgian development cooperation. It strengthens the transformational competences of its members such as flexibility, teamwork and leadership. Be-cause health takes hold of the global and local changes in the context of international health and promotes the necessary adaptations.

## **Expected results of the platform :**

---

### **Result 1: SHARING of knowledge and (field) experiences**

Belgian development actors are connected as a Belgian health community and share field experiences, research findings, and updates on (international) health cooperation development policies and research.

In order to optimize this sharing Be-cause health wants to expand its membership to include the teams and partners of its Belgian members in the South, strengthen the operation of its working groups and communicate its results through several channels.

### **Result 2: LEARNING**

BCH members in Belgium and in the South strengthen knowledge and capacities based on shared (scientific) knowledge, insights and innovations. Members obtain better access to learning at national and international level via different channels:

#### **- Annual conference**

An annual conference involving international researchers, policy makers and implementers from (but not limited to) Belgium and its partner countries is organized around one theme – preferably by one of the active working groups of the platform or on a new topic of interest to members. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity to give the floor to international experts especially from Southern partner organisations and research centers.

#### **- Thematic seminar(s) and webinars**

The platform foresees the organisation of smaller thematic seminars or international meetings. Themes will be identified by working groups and/or in close consultation with Belgian (

DGD, universities, ...) and Southern partners.

#### **- International (global health) conferences**

As member organization of FESTMIH, Be-Cause Health contributes to and participates at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (**ECTMIH**) in 2023 and 2025 and in the intervening years in the HSG conferences. These are opportunities for Belgian and Southern (partner) experts to highlight achievements in health cooperation on the international academic scene.

#### **- E-Tutorials**

A first e-tutorial has been produced and evaluated positively. BCH intends to use this tool on other topics during this new 5-year cycle.

#### **- Networking**

With networks in the South and in Belgium, with EU and international actors & platforms

#### **- Institutional memory**

Created in 2004, BCH has created a body of knowledge and of relationships that can be built upon.

### **Result 3 - INFLUENCE**

Be-cause health provides policy advice to Belgian policy makers (incl. DGD) with an effective contribution of BCH Working groups to global health policies and the policy debate based on the right to health and healthcare for all (UHC), on social protection and on the strengthening of health systems.

Coordination of policy advice allows synergies amongst Belgian actors (ngo's, Enabel, universities, ...) and with their partners in the South and complements other (ngo-federations,... ) sectoral policy advice.

Relevant advice on international and global health policies is formulated for DGD and other Belgian actors in a concerted way, in various forms, including policy briefs, factsheets, e-tutorials, outcome documents and recommendations of seminars and conferences.

#### **Result 4 – COORDINATION**

Be-cause health stimulates trust, harmonization and networking between Belgian actors involved in health development.

The governance structures and their functioning should ensure a good representation of various stakeholders as well as transparent decision-making based on consensus. The Secretariat and steering committee of the platform should ensure the governance and management of Be-cause health in line with the mission and vision of the platform.

Digital tools will ease the functioning of the small coordination team, for the organization of national and international meetings, the management of membership and the communication of relevant information.

DRAFT

## II. LogFrame

<p><b>Global Objective</b> Be-cause health aims at social protection and equitable access to good quality responsive health services for all, and in particular the most vulnerable people, who are considered as right holders, embedded in strong, resilient and sustainable health systems. It is recognised on national and international level for its expertise in these matters.</p> <p><b>[BCH Vision]</b></p> <p>[ITM] To support DGD in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of policies in the field of international health development, including coordination of Belgian stakeholders and raising public awareness.</p>
<p><b>Specific Objective – [BCH mission]</b> Be-cause health is a pluralistic open platform, providing a place for exchange and capitalisation of technical knowledge and experience as well as scientific evidence on international health and development cooperation and its application in the field. Be-cause health ensures a more effective Belgian contribution to global health policies and the policy debate based on the right to health and healthcare for all, and on the acceptance of reality as a complex, adaptive system influenced by multiple determinants. The platform stimulates mutual trust, understanding and cooperation between all stakeholders involved in Belgian development cooperation. It strengthens the transformational competences of its members such as flexibility, teamwork and leadership. Be-cause health takes hold of the global and local changes in the context of international health and promotes the necessary adaptations.</p>

### Result 1 : SHARING of knowledge and (field) experiences

Belgian development actors are connected as a Belgian health community and share field experiences, research findings, and updates on (international) health cooperation development policies and research.

In order to optimize this sharing Be-cause health wants to expand its membership to include the teams and partners of its Belgian members in the South, strengthen the operation of its working groups and communicate its results through several channels.

R1.1 Mobilization and networking experts in thematic <b>working groups</b> and/or communities of practice.						
Indicator	# active working groups (WG) # of active WG members					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
R1.2 Management, publication and further development of <b>Communication</b> messages (see also R4. Coordination)						
Indicator	#newsletters, # news items posted on website and social media (facebook, twitter) # of followers / users (website, facebook, twitter) # publications					
	2016 Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
R1.3 Membership promotion						

Indicator	# members from the South (per age, gender, origin, member organization)					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Type of activities						
	Working group meetings (venue; agenda; minutes) Website management, editing & lay-out Newsletters editing & lay-out Publications: 'BCH Matters', introduction brochure, leaflets Promotion of membership with new partners					

## Result 2: LEARNING (& CO-DEVELOPMENT)

All teach, all learn. BCH members in Belgium and in the South strengthen knowledge and capacities based on shared (scientific) knowledge, insights and innovations. Members obtain better access to learning at national and international level.

<b>R2.1 Annual Be-cause health conference</b>						
Indicator	# of active WG ; # (external) partner organization(s) # of participants					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R 2.2 Thematic (working group) seminars</b>						
Indicator	# of thematic seminars # of participants Institutional diversity of participants / co-organisers					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R2.3 Participation at international fora</b>						
Indicator	# BCH contributions (abstracts, session) to international health fora including ECTMIH (2017, 2019, 2021), HSG,... # BCH presence, incl. # BCH supported (Southern) participants					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R2.4 e-Tutorials</b>						
Indicator	# e-tutorials produced # users and feedback Resultd of external evaluations					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R.2.4 Networking</b> With networks in the South and in Belgium, with EU and international actors & platforms						

Stimulate learning and cooperation in <b>Global South</b>						
Indicator	# Exchange with fellow networks (ex. FESTMIH, MMI, PHM, SHARE-NET (NL), ...) joint reflection / analysis for policy influence or learning / co-development Contribution to exchange and joined trainings amongst Belgian actors and Southern partners and/or experts in partner countries					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
R2.5 <b>Institutional memory:</b> building on the historical and gathered knowledge in the network						
Indicator	# of responses to questions and policy building Users and consultations of electronic information and data platforms (library)					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Type of activities</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organization (venue, catering, travel) of seminars and BCH conferences</li> <li>- exchange meeting / visit incl. in partner country</li> <li>- registration and travel to international events/conferences</li> <li>- Documentation database and library</li> </ul>						

### Result 3: INFLUENCE

Be-cause health provides policy advice to Belgian policy makers (incl. DGD) with an effective contribution of BCH Working groups to global health policies and the policy debate based on the right to health and healthcare for all (UHC), on social protection and on the strengthening of health systems.

R3.1 Mobilization of expertise for <b>policy advice</b> on Belgian health cooperation policies						
Indicator	# dialogue with Belgian policy makers and influencers (dgd, cabinet, parliament)					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
R3.2 Elaboration, publication and further development of policy tools						
Indicator	# policy briefings, # ...					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
R.3.3 Networking with Belgian, EU and international actors & platforms						
Indicator	Exchange with fellow networks (ex. MMI, SHARE-NET (NL))					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Type of activities						
- exchange meeting / visit						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development, lay-out of policy briefs, factsheets</li> <li>- joint reflection / analysis for policy influence</li> <li>- joint submission to international events/conferences</li> <li>- public campaigns (budget?)</li> </ul>
--	---

#### Result 4 : COORDINATION

Be-cause health stimulates trust, harmonization and networking between Belgian actors involved in health development.

The governance structures and their functioning should ensure a good representation of various stakeholders as well as transparent decision-making based on consensus. The Secretariat and steering committee of the platform should ensure the governance and management of Be-cause health in line with the mission and vision of the platform.

<b>R 4.1 Network management</b>						
Indicator	# Steering group (4-6) meetings; annual general assembly # Steering group members; diversity of represented groups -interests # strategies / strategic reflections					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R 4.2 Membership management</b>						
Indicator	# (new) individual members & member organisations # diversity in type of organisations # updates of member lists Automation level of membership registration					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>R 4.3 Communication about BCH</b>						
Indicator	# newsletters, # news items posted on website and social media (facebook, twitter) # of followers / users (website, facebook, twitter) annual reports					
	2021 Baseline	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Type of activities</b>						
	Steering group (4-6) meetings : venue; save-the-date; agenda; minutes General Assembly : venue; save-the-date; agenda; minutes External evaluation(s) Foster inter-working group exchanges + learning Membership management Communication activities					