

## Background

- China is an emerging donor of development assistance for health (DAH).
- However, studies covering the post-Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) period and regions other than Africa were insufficient.
- Studies to understand the setting process in China's DAH is also needed.

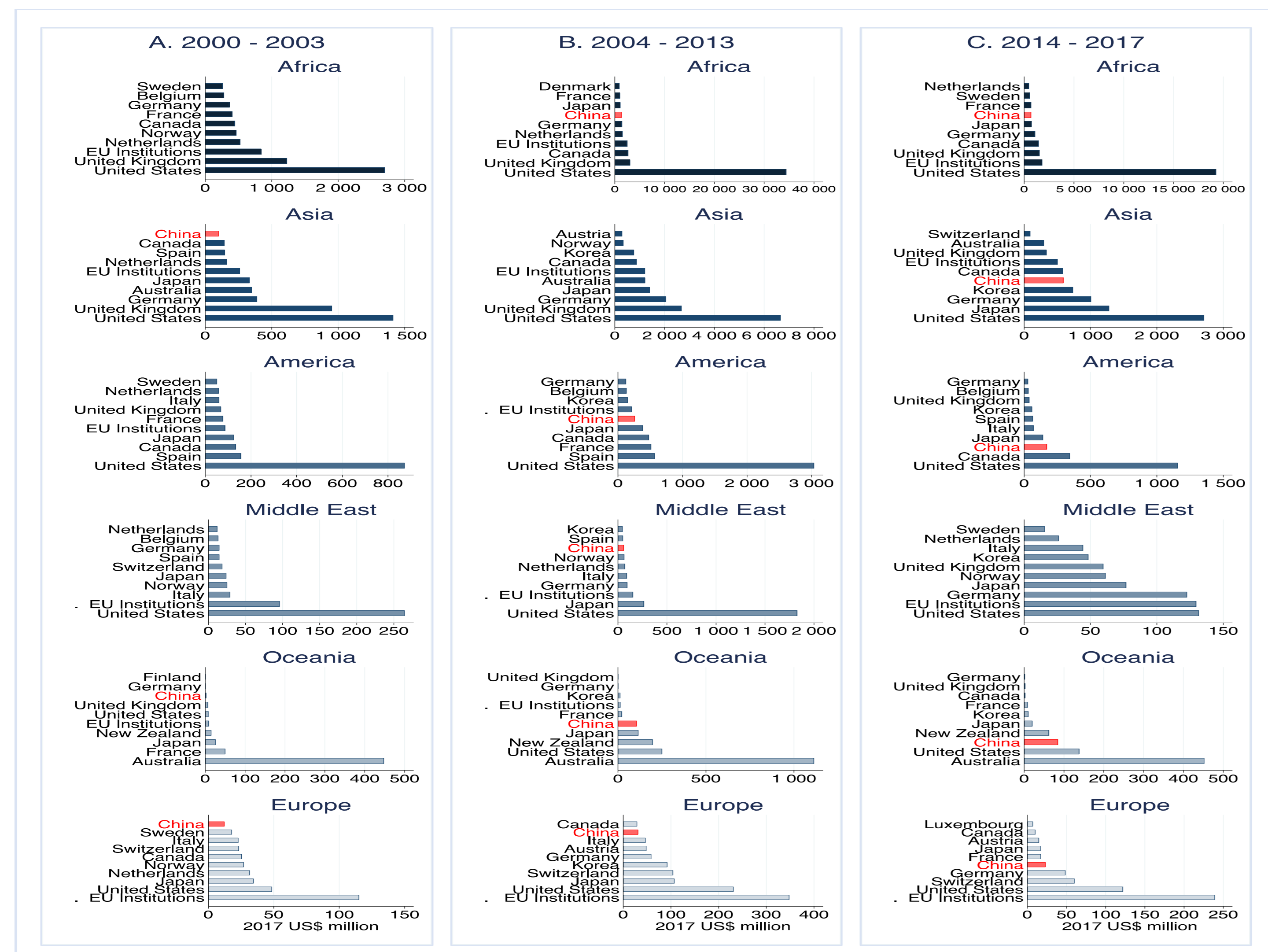
## Objectives

- Provide an updated analysis of trends in the priorities of Chinese DAH.
- Compare China to comparable trends among OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors.
- Understand the changes in Chinese medical aid exports before and after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Explore the potential factors influencing China's shifting priority-setting processes.

## Methods

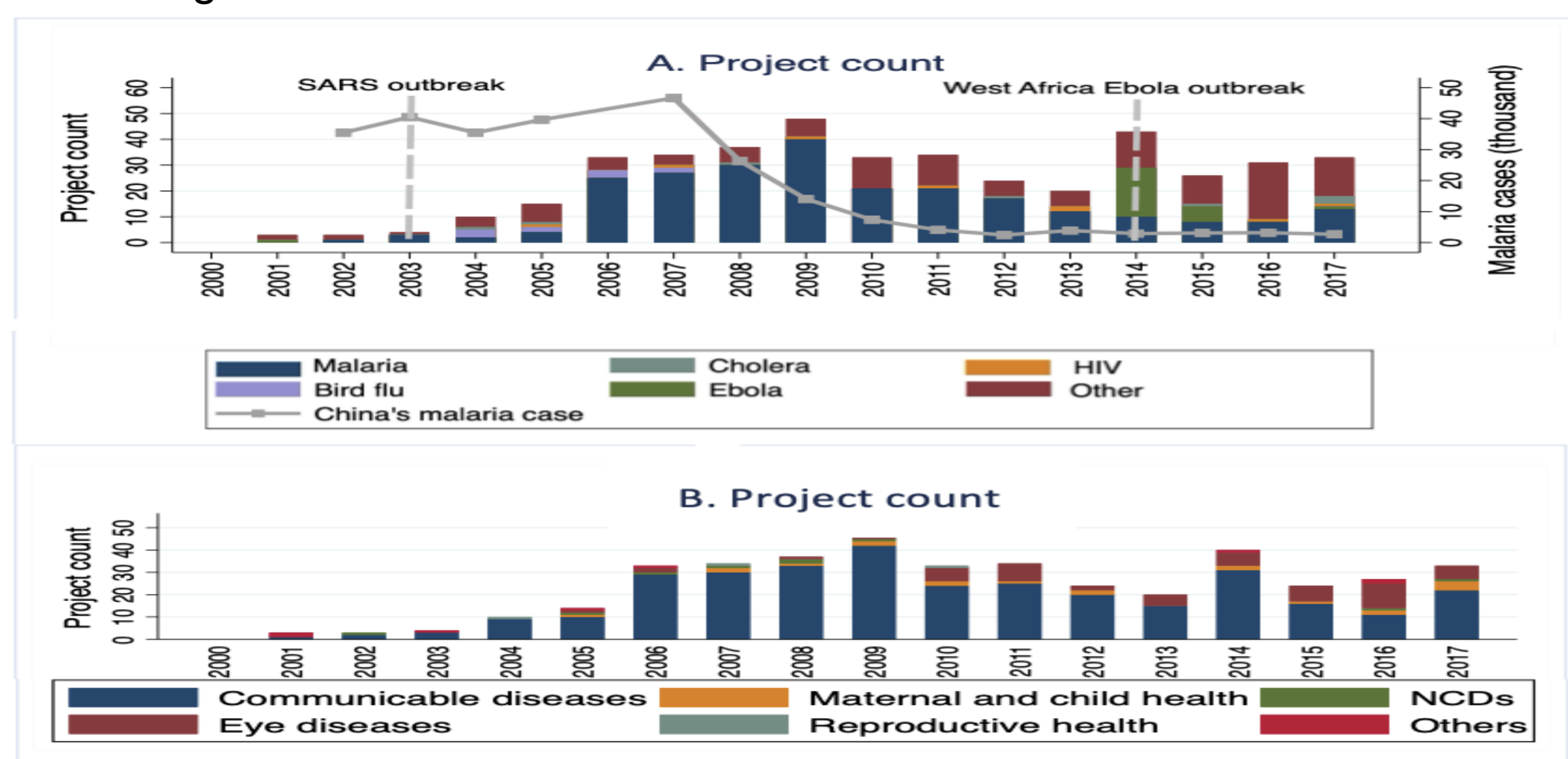
- **Multiple data sources**
  - AidData 2.0 (2000-2017)
  - Creditor reporting system (CRS) datasets (2000-2017)
  - Chinese Aid Exports Database (2017-2023)
  - China's official documents: Policy documents, press releases, white papers, etc.
- **Methods**
  - Content analysis
  - Priority-setting analysis: Walt and Gilson's policy analysis framework (context-actors-process-content)
  - Econometric analysis

## Results



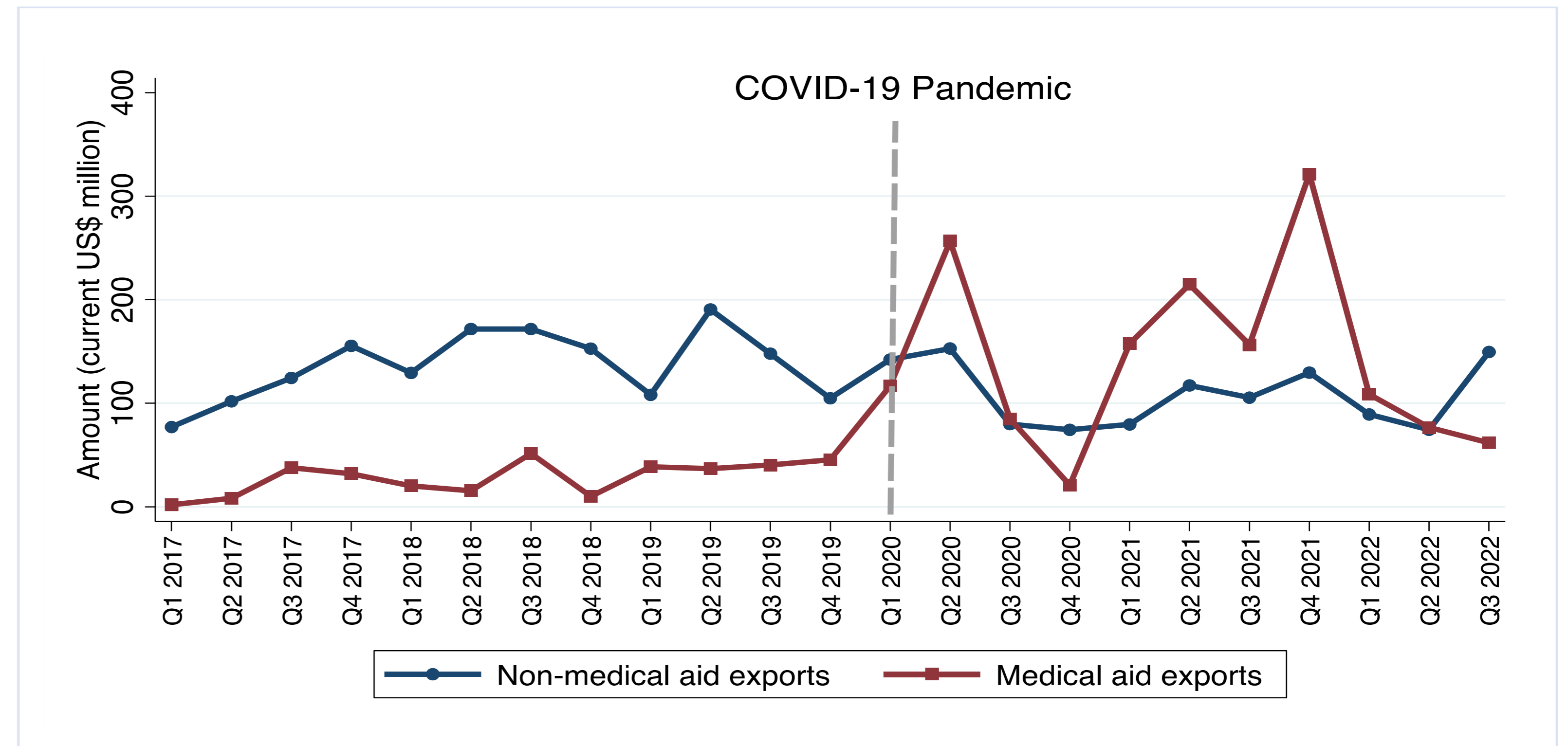
**Fig. 1** Top 10 bilateral donors of HP commitments in each region, 2000-17.

- **Result 1.** China has become an important DAH donor to most regions, including but not limited to Africa.



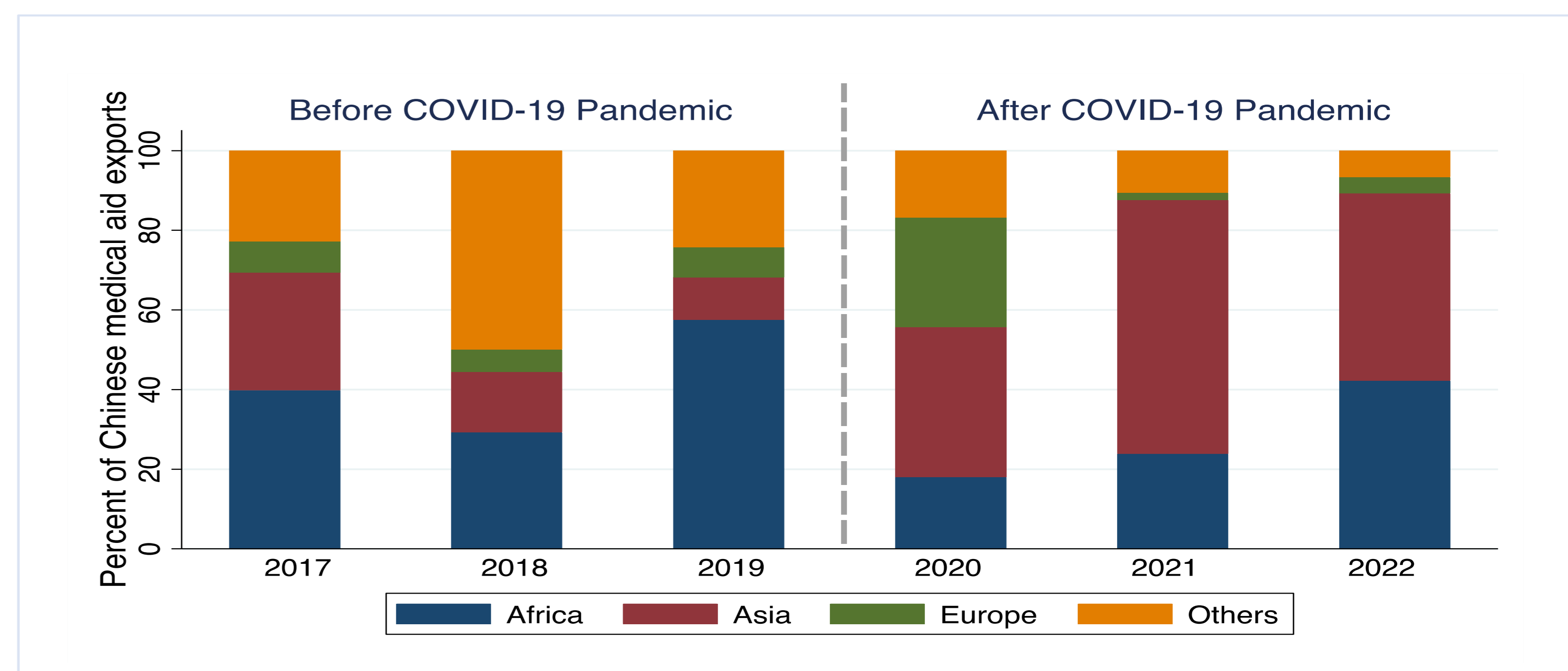
**Fig. 2** Chinese DAH projects by specific health issue, 2000-17

- **Result 2.** China has allocated more attention to eye diseases, and infectious disease outbreaks over time. In contrast, the priority given to malaria has declined over the same period



**Fig.3** Chinese aid exports by quarter, from Jan 2017 to Sep 2022.

- **Result 3.** Chinese quarterly medical aid exports almost quintupled after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic



**Fig.4** Distribution of Chinese medical aid exports across regions by quarter from Jan 2017 to Sep 2022, measured by the amount in current US\$.

- **Result 4.** Chinese medical aid exports became more dispersed after the COVID-19 pandemic, directing a higher proportion of medical aid to Europe and Asia.

- **Results 5.** Factors of China's DAH priority-setting:

- Important milestones: Outbreaks of SARS (2003) and Ebola (2014), BRI launch (2013), and COVID-19 pandemic (2020).
- China cares about the costs and outcomes of DAH.
- China's DAH priority setting was affected by multilateral initiatives.

## Conclusion

- Unlike stereotypes of China as a 'lone wolf' donor, we suggest multilateral processes are influential in informing and setting Chinese DAH priorities.

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