

### The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/

Dianne Stewart, Deputy Director, External Relations and Communications Division, dianne.stewart@theglobalfund.org

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria and to strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness. We value the opportunity to share the experience of the partnership to support creating a more effective global cooperation and accelerate achieving our collective commitment to SDGs. We remain available to provide further information and expert advice to support the Summit of the Future process.

## Chapter 1: Sustainable Development & Financing for Development

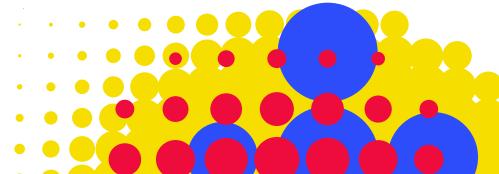
### SDG 3

## Pact for the Future needs to recognize the urgency of achieving SDGs, we must redouble our efforts to end AIDS, TB and malaria, and build a healthier and more equitable world.

The entire Sustainable Development Goals agenda is at risk. We remain off the trajectory required to achieve the SDG 3 target of ending AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030. In many of the countries in which the Global Fund invests, getting back on track against the three diseases has been made much more challenging by a combination of interconnected and colliding crises including COVID-19, climate change, conflict, debt, an alarming erosion of human rights, and deepening inequities within and between countries.

For the most marginalized in the world, it would be a tragedy to lose momentum in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, and see the hard-won gains of the last two decades reversed. At a time when these communities are directly threatened by climate change and conflict, ending AIDS, TB and malaria and building stronger systems for health is one of the most cost-effective and impactful ways to save lives, reduce inequities and improve livelihoods.

Despite all the challenges, the goal of ending AIDS, TB and malaria as public health threats remains achievable. We need to accelerate access to game-changing innovations, optimizing their deployment alongside existing tools to maximize the impact of every dollar. We need to eliminate the inequities that increase the vulnerability of young women, key populations and the very poorest. This will require increased investment in disease-specific interventions to ensure equitable access to lifesaving tools, coupled with increased investment in strengthening systems for health to make them more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. It will also require policy changes in many countries to dismantle the barriers to access that



prevent those most at risk from receiving the services they need. Across all these efforts, communities and civil society must be meaningfully involved and empowered to advance health for all.

For more information: <u>Global Fund Results Report 2022</u>

#### **Climate Change and Health**

## Pact for the Future must recognize and prioritize the health-climate nexus to prevent and address adverse health effects of climate change.

Climate change is affecting the foundations of human health and well-being. It represents a profound threat to the Global Goals of defeating HIV, TB and malaria, saving lives and building a healthier, safer, and equitable world for all. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between 2030-2050 (compared to 1961-1990), climate change will cause an additional 250,000 deaths per year. Countries most affected by climate change are also those with a high disease burden. Climate change amplifies the risk of infectious diseases and is undermining the global progress made in the fight to end AIDS, TB and malaria. The impact of climate change on the fight against malaria is particularly concerning. Changes in rainfall, temperature and humidity are expanding malaria transmission to areas that are unprepared and inadequately resourced to prevent, detect, and treat malaria. In addition, climate disasters and climate-induced displacements are disrupting service delivery and essential diagnosis and treatment services, leading to increased transmission and drug resistance. Continuing to build resilient and sustainable systems for health will be the first line of defense in the fight against health threats from a changing climate.

The direct climate damage costs to health (excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation) is estimated to be between US\$ 2–4 billion per year by 2030. Estimates indicate that only 0.5% of multilateral climate funding is allocated to projects that explicitly address human health, and just 5% of climate adaptation funding is committed to health projects. We need to increase global finance flows to meet the health needs of vulnerable communities most affected by climate change, adhering to principles of country ownership, equity and impact when it comes to meeting the climate-health financing gap, building on existing health financing mechanisms and ensuring complementarities and synergies while avoiding fragmentation among climate and health financing actors and mechanisms.

70% of Global Fund's funding – over US\$9 billion over the next three years – will be spent in the 50 most climate-vulnerable countries to support health programs that must also cope with the climate crisis.

More information: Global Fund Key Messages on Climate Change

#### **Financing for Development**

Pact for the Future must reconfirm the commitment to Addis Ababa Action Agenda, recognizing the critical role of organizations that delivery innovative and sustainable financing in support of countries' own national plans.

We must be unrelenting in our efforts to catalyze and scale up domestic and international resources to accelerate progress toward SDG 3. Significant investments in health over the past two decades have yielded striking progress in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Much of that has come through domestic resource mobilization and traditional development assistance, but the health financing landscape is shifting. To bridge the gap to SDGs we urgently need a step change to increase grant financing as well as innovative financing.

The Global Fund's Debt2Health program converts debt repayments into lifesaving investments in health. Under individually negotiated "debt swap" agreements, an implementing country agrees to invest in programs to fight

the three diseases or strengthen health systems through the Global Fund. In return, a creditor country cancels debt owed by the implementing country. The Global Fund also works in partnership to deliver blended finance. Blended finance combines Global Fund grants with other sources of financing, including investments from development finance institutions.

More on Global Fund's Innovative Financing

# High-level meetings on Tuberculosis, Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Universal Health Coverage

# Pact for the Future must strengthen the linkages between TB, UHC and PPR and secure additional, long-term financing for health.

Achieving SDG 3 target of ending AIDS, TB and malaria as public health threats by 2030 requires accelerated progress toward UHC. This, in turn, will require more investment in resilient and sustainable health systems, greater engagement and leadership of affected communities, and intensified focus on tackling health inequities, human rights barriers and gender inequalities. The political declarations agreed upon at the 78<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly acknowledge that investments in building robust integrated and resilient health systems (including TB prevention, detection, and treatment) and community responses advances UHC and PPPR. Progress toward UHC, PPPR and TB are measurable, there is scope for increased accountability in the Pact for the Future, ensuring that we keep our commitments. We critically need increased commitments to securing additional, long-term sustainable financing for TB, UHC and PPPR.

The Global Fund supports programs that go beyond HIV, TB and malaria to deliver integrated, people-centered health services to maximize efficiency and improve overall health outcomes. The Global Fund is the largest multilateral provider of grants for strengthening systems for health. Over the 2021-2023 funding cycle, we are investing US\$4.9 billion, or US\$1.5 billion a year, in formal and community health systems through our core grants and our COVID-19 response – about one-third of our total investments.

The Read how Global Fund investments have advanced achieving SDG 3, PPPR and UHC in our <u>Global Fund</u> <u>Results Report 2022</u>

### Chapter 2: International Peace and Security

### **Conflict and Health**

## One of the greatest challenges faced by the health systems in developing countries is conflicts.

Conflicts damage health infrastructure and overwhelm already overstretched health services, so people infected with disease are unable to access treatment, supply chains break down, and prevention interventions are interrupted. In too many places, people cannot get access to lifesaving services. Even where continuity of essential services can be achieved, health workers are often at risk, and delivery costs escalate. While the direct death tolls from climate-driven disasters or outbreaks of war and conflict often claim the headlines, the indirect death toll from the diseases that follow can exceed the initial impact.

The Global Fund works with partners, including communities and civil society, to ensure we leave no one behind and continue to progress toward SDG 3 also in challenging operating environments, in countries or regions that experience disease outbreaks, natural disasters, armed conflicts and/or weak governance. Challenging Operating Environments make up approximately 30% of the Global Fund allocation and about 25% of the global disease burden for the three diseases. To end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics and

address emerging threats to global health security, we need to reach the most vulnerable people with prevention and treatment services, wherever they are.

Conflict and instability within and between countries amplifies the risks faced by key and vulnerable populations, including adolescent girls and young women and children, among others. They are more likely to be subjected to human rights abuses, such as summary executions, rape, and other war crimes, and cut off from life-saving services.

More information: How the Global Fund Works in Challenging Operating Environments

## Chapter 3: Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation

### Access to Innovation

Greater focus is needed on accelerating the equitable deployment of and access to innovations.

COVID-19 pandemic has showcased how critically important access to innovation is to ensure health and wellbeing for all. Inequitable access to COVID-19 tools – including diagnostic tests, treatments, vaccines, and personal protective equipment (PPE) – severely hindered the pandemic response in LMICs. This inequity created a two-track pandemic; while rich countries with high vaccination rates returned to normal life, many LMICs suffered high death rates and lockdowns, due in large part to shortages of lifesaving tests, treatments and vaccines, distribution challenges and manufacturing bottlenecks.

Global Fund is poised to support the delivery of new products and tools to countries in existing and future pandemics, leveraging its work and experience fighting ongoing HIV, TB, and malaria pandemics. Through our NextGen Market Shaping Framework, Global Fund accelerates and improves health product introductions to ensure availability and affordability of quality-assured health products, enabling more effective introduction and scale-up of innovations that can impact the trajectory to end the three diseases, respond to future pandemics and contribute to the achievement of SDG 3.

More on NextGen market shaping in Global Fund 2023-2028 Strategy

## Effective use of technology and information are critical to the elimination of diseases across LMICs.

The generation, analysis and use of quality, timely, transparent, and disaggregated data is imperative to appropriately tailor and adapt programs to the needs of individuals in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, to promote equity, and to support broader health programming. However, these data are all too often not sufficiently available, at the right time, of the right quality, and not integrated across systems or from multiple sources, or used to their fullest potential in support of decision-making at all levels of service provision. This also applies to the generation and use of disaggregated data from relevant health and non-health sources, such as by gender, age, geography, socioeconomic and education status, and as appropriate to respond to needs, despite our efforts over recent years. Ensuring data collection, storage and use comply with human rights principles and are securely managed is imperative to ensure the safety and health of individuals and to build trust around data collection.

Effective use of technology and information are critical to the elimination of diseases across LMICs. Therefore, the Global Fund has prioritized digital health and has become a significant investor in this area. Our aim is to strengthen the quality of patient-level data, improve analysis, inform better decision making, and ultimately

drive better health outcomes. Our funding enhances data availability, completeness, timeliness, and quality through digitalization of health data systems from the community level upwards. Of the \$1.5 billion of grant funding that the Global Fund invests annually, over \$100 million for digital health and data science, particularly in Health Management Information Systems.

### **Chapter 4: Youth and Future Generations**

Affected communities, including youth, must have an equal voice in decisions affecting their future.

The world is home to the highest number of young people right now than at any other point in history, concentrated largely in Sub-Saharan Africa. Meaningfully involving young people – a quarter of the world's population is key to achieving the SDGs and empowering them to lead.

According to the 2018 UNAIDS estimates, there were 3.9 million youth between the ages of 15-24 living with HIV globally. Approximately 1600 youth between the ages of 15 and 24 acquire HIV every day. Meaningfully engaging with affected communities means also giving youth a seat at the table, bringing the unique perspective of young people to the discussion. The Youth Council, formed by the Global Fund in 2020, is a forum convened by the Global Fund Secretariat to provide insight into the needs and challenges youth face in relation to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria and, more broadly, to other aspects of their health and well-being. For the Global Fund, to achieve the greatest impact against the deadliest infectious diseases, we challenge power dynamics to ensure affected communities have an equal voice in the fight and an equal chance at a healthy future. By working together, we are getting close to achieving the goals the world once deemed impossible – ending HIV, TB and malaria as public health threats.

More information about the <u>Youth Council.</u>

### **Chapter 5: Transforming Global Governance**

### Multi-stakeholder partnerships

## To better respond to current threats and future shocks equitably and to achieve SDGs multi-stakeholder partnerships are vital.

The Global Fund, a partnership of governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, is a successful model for the new SDG era of shared responsibility and mutual accountability to achieve global goals and to prepare for future risks. In order to respond equitably to any future shock, it is critical to build on existing institutions and best practices, ensuring meaningful participation of civil society and affected communities in all phases of the response.

In global health, we have learned that the swiftest and surest way to defeat today's pandemics and prepare for future threats is by building strong, inclusive formal and community health systems. We have seen this during COVID-19: Many low- and middle-income countries used the same laboratories, supply chains, data systems, diagnostics tools, health workers and community systems built to fight HIV, TB and malaria as the foundation of their response to the new pandemic. Only a response mechanism that is built on on-going fights against current threats, that builds on existing knowledge and networks, and ensures meaningful participation of everyone involved, particularly of civil society and affected communities, can we ensure an equitable response to future shocks.

More on Global Fund's role in Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

### **About the Global Fund**

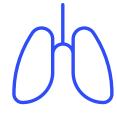
The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We raise and invest more than US\$5 billion a year to fight the deadliest infectious diseases, challenge the injustice that fuels them, and strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness in more than 100 of the hardest hit countries. We unite world leaders, communities, civil society, health workers and the private sector to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved 59 million lives. Read the <u>Results Report 2023</u> for further details.





# million

People on antiretroviral therapy for HIV in 2022.





million

People treated for tuberculosis in 2022.



# million

Mosquito nets distributed to fight malaria in 2022.