

Ireland

and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The partnership between Ireland and the Global Fund has played an important role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and in building a healthier, safer and more equitable world.

Ending AIDS, TB and malaria

Health investments through the Global Fund have saved more than 44 million lives since 2002, revitalizing entire communities and improving economies.



21.9 million

people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV in 2020



4.7 million

people with TB treated in 2020



188 million

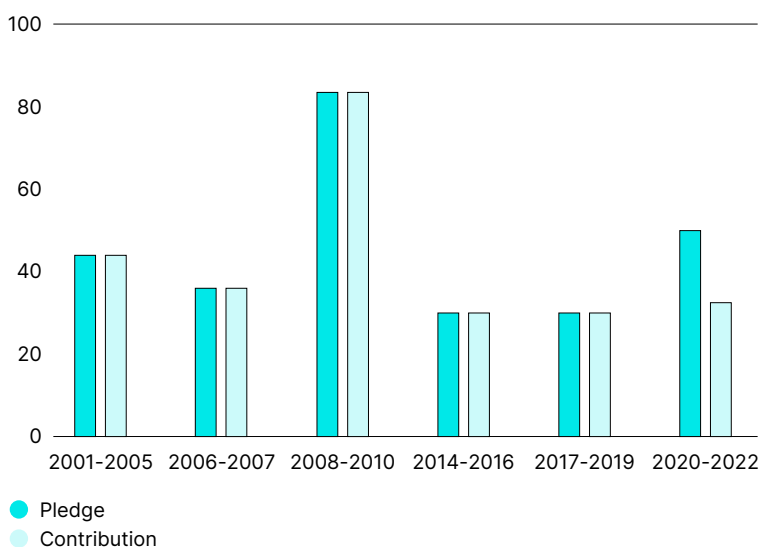
mosquito nets distributed in 2020

Our partnership

Ireland has been a key supporter of the Global Fund since 2002, contributing €256.05 million between 2002 and 2021. For the Sixth Replenishment period (2020-2022), Ireland pledged €50 million. This pledge represents a 67% increase from the previous Replenishment period, firmly cementing Ireland's commitment to alleviate the burden of the three diseases and build strong and resilient systems for health.

Ireland is a member of the Global Fund Board's Point Seven voting constituency (comprising countries that are committed to reaching the target of 0.7% of gross national income for official development assistance). Ireland's global health priorities have contributed to major Global Fund decisions, including increased attention on gender equality, resilient and sustainable systems for health, a greater focus on challenging operating environments and sustained commitment to transparency and accountability.

Ireland's pledges and contributions to the Global Fund, 2001-2022 (in € million)



Priority areas of our partnership

Gender equality: Adolescent girls and young women remain a key focus of the Global Fund's HIV response. In the 2018-2020 implementation period, Global Fund investments in HIV prevention and testing for this group increased 107% within the 13 priority countries where HIV burden is highest among adolescent girls and young women: Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We continue to invest in social support programs to fight gender-based violence, provide peer support and peer education, address harmful gender norms, and improve education about sexual health and HIV prevention.

Advancing gender equality is a key foreign policy objective for Ireland – and promoting the prevention and treatment of HIV among adolescent girls and women is a key aspect of this.

Resilient and sustainable systems for health: The universal right to health is the principle that aligns the Global Fund with Irish Aid's priority of ensuring equity of access to quality health care. Global Fund investments in the treatment and prevention of HIV, TB, and malaria also improve countries' overall health and community systems. The Global Fund is the largest multilateral provider of grants to build resilient and sustainable systems for health, investing more than US\$1 billion a year toward this purpose.

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls: The COVID-19 pandemic has put women and girls even further at risk. In Malawi, the Global Fund has approved US\$31.4 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on lifesaving programs, reinforce the national COVID-19 response and strengthen health systems. The funding has helped the country adapt HIV programs to ensure uninterrupted access to services for adolescent girls and young women.

Human rights: Health for all cannot be achieved without human rights. Through our "Breaking Down Barriers" initiative, we are providing intensive support to 20 countries to vastly scale up evidence-based programming to reduce human rights-related barriers to HIV, TB and malaria services.

Ireland takes a leading international role in the fight against human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. Standing up against discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, and promoting and defending their rights, is one of Ireland's foreign policy objectives.

Leaving no one behind: Most of the programs supported by the Global Fund are in low-income countries with a high burden of disease. Ireland is a strategic partner in this context, with 53% of its 2020 official development assistance allocated for least-developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the needs are greatest.

Health and education: If we invest in girls' schooling, health benefits will follow. A better-educated girl is less likely to get HIV, and more likely to have control over her body and be able to make her own choices about when or if she will marry or have children. The Global Fund works with its partners to support girls to stay in school. In Malawi, where adolescent girls comprise almost one-third of new HIV infections, global health partners are supporting in-school and out-of-school clubs to help girls take charge of their lives and support boys and young men to recognize their role in enabling gender equality.

Catalyzing domestic investments in health: The Global Fund requires all countries to progressively spend more on health and to gradually take up program costs. In addition, a minimum of 15% – up to 30% in some countries – of Global Fund allocations are subject to additional co-financing commitments from countries for each grant. This mechanism has proved remarkably successful in incentivizing increased domestic investment in health. Co-financing of Global Fund-supported programs increased by 37% in the 2018-2020 grant implementation period, with a further 33% increase already committed for the 2021-2023 cycle.

Fight for what counts

Thanks to unwavering support from partners like Ireland, we have proven we can force HIV, TB and malaria into retreat. But we can't stop now. With millions of lives still at risk, we must move faster to end the three diseases as public health threats and build resilient and sustainable systems for health. Together, we can protect everyone, everywhere from infectious diseases and build a healthier, more equitable world. The Global Fund is honored to have Ireland by our side as we **fight for what counts**.

On the Front Line of the Fight Against Malaria



The Global Fund and SCDI/Lê Văn Kiến

Nhin Kpă has been a community health worker since 2019, working to provide essential health services to people living in a remote region of Viet Nam who are at high risk of malaria. Global Fund investments support more than 9,800 community health workers like Nhin in the country.

"My goal is to help many people in the community – for myself, for my family, for the community in which I live," he says.

When COVID-19 hit, health workers like Nhin took on an even larger role in the community, sharing information about preventing COVID-19, providing masks and hand sanitizer, and giving out much-needed food packages to families.

Nhin and his colleagues form a crucial bridge between the communities and health facilities. They are also often the first to recognize and respond to disease outbreaks, protecting the world against future health threats.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, equitable future for all. We unite the world to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. It's working. We have saved 44 million lives. We won't stop until the job is finished.