

Australia

and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Twenty years of partnership between Australia and the Global Fund have played a great role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and in building a healthier, safer and more equitable world.

Our partnership

Australia and the Global Fund share a common vision of supporting countries in the Indo-Pacific region to end HIV, TB and malaria and strengthen resilient, sustainable and inclusive health and community systems that can respond to current and future disease threats. Global Fund investments of over US\$10 billion in the Indo-Pacific region have saved more than 17.7 million lives since 2002. As the world faces intersecting global crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and climate change, it is more important than ever for the Global Fund partnership to protect our hard-won gains in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria.

Australia has contributed over AUD 961 million to the Global Fund since 2004. Investing in the Global Fund is excellent value for money – every dollar that Australia has contributed to the Global Fund has resulted in approximately US\$13 in investments to support Australia's priority countries in the Indo-Pacific region.¹ These investments have had a major impact in the Indo-Pacific region – not only in saving lives, but in building resilient and sustainable systems for health and breaking down gender and human rights-related barriers to health. Australia was also the second country to join the Global Fund's debt conversion initiative, Debt2Health. Australia is the 12th-largest public donor to the Global Fund and pledged AUD 242 million for 2020-2022.

Impact of Global Fund-supported programs in the Indo-Pacific region



2.4 million

people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2020



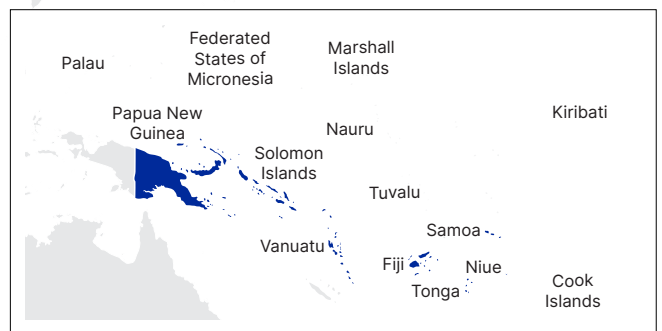
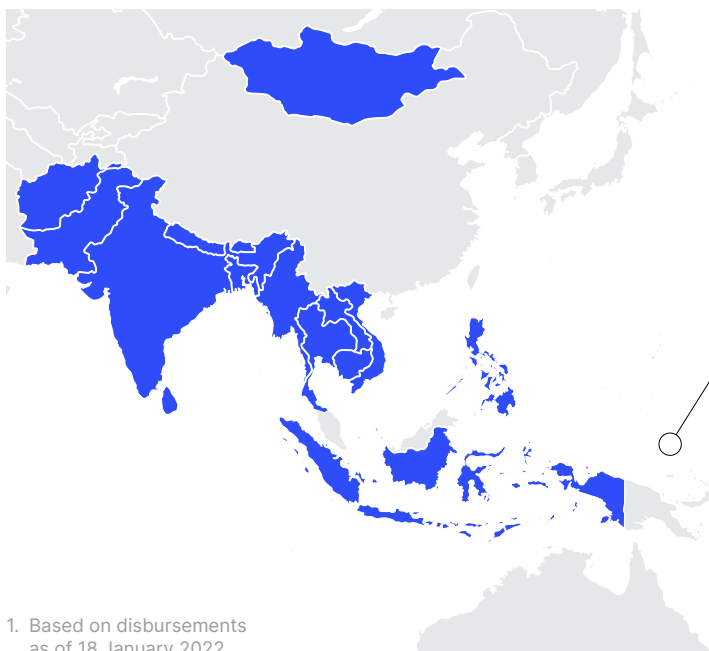
3.1 million

people treated for TB in 2020



12.8 million

mosquito nets distributed in 2020



Close-up on the Pacific region:



34,000

people on ART in 2020



1.5 million

mosquito nets distributed in 2020



22,000

people treated for TB in 2020



140,000

lives saved since 2002

1. Based on disbursements as of 18 January 2022.

Priority areas of our partnership

Building resilient and sustainable systems for health

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. This includes improving procurement and supply chains; strengthening data systems and data use; building an adequate health workforce; strengthening community responses and systems; and promoting more integrated service delivery so people can receive comprehensive care throughout their lives.

Fighting for gender equality

In the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, gender inequalities continue to drive new infections and are critical dimensions in understanding and responding to each of the three diseases.

The Global Fund's approach to addressing gender inequality is embedded across all our investments. The Global Fund invests in treatment and prevention programs, including prevention of malaria during pregnancy, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, economic empowerment programs, comprehensive sexuality education and gender-based violence interventions.

Progress in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been dramatic over the last two decades. In countries where the Global Fund invests, the percentage of mothers receiving treatment to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies reached 85% in 2020, compared to just 44% in 2010. In Papua New Guinea, the Global Fund works closely with the National HIV Program and a range of partners to ensure those most at risk of HIV have access to prevention, treatment and care, including strengthening health services to prevent HIV transmission from mothers to their babies.

Focusing on human rights

The Global Fund supports countries to design, fund, implement and take to scale programs that remove human rights-related barriers to HIV, TB and malaria services. One of the ways the Global Fund addresses discrimination against key populations is through

“Breaking Down Barriers” – a bold initiative that supports countries to scale up programs for key populations that address barriers to health that exist in government policies and practices, service providers, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies.

“Breaking Down Barriers” also empowers people from key population groups to know and mobilize around their rights and get access to justice. In the Philippines for example, a 2020 midterm assessment of the initiative highlighted a legal literacy training that had reached more than 1,000 key population members in diverse locations and catalyzed community engagement; and a new national HIV law and its implementing rules and regulations that had strong language on human rights and removed human rights-related barriers to HIV services, such as lowering the age of consent for HIV testing for adolescents.

Market shaping

The Global Fund is one of the world's largest procurers of medicines and technologies. Every year, approximately US\$2 billion is used to procure key medicines and health products, of which the larger share goes through the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism (PPM). In 2020, the PPM managed US\$1.3 billion in orders, serving grantees in more than 90 countries and achieving US\$249 million in savings. With its vast scale, the PPM has reduced the prices of antiretroviral drugs, antimalarials and mosquito nets by 50%, 39% and 36% respectively between 2014 and 2020.

Fostering innovation

COVID-19 has catalyzed a multitude of health innovations to help regain lost ground against the three diseases, such as multimonth dispensing of medicines for HIV and TB, switching to a door-to-door delivery system for mosquito nets and preventive malaria medicines, and developing digital tools for prevention activities and monitoring. Countries scaled up digital treatment adherence tools, such as video observed therapy and digital pill boxes that reminded patients to take their medication. The shift to home-based treatment had a big impact – there was a significant improvement in patient adherence and patient treatment outcomes. Advances in technology have empowered individuals in key populations, expanded outreach and engagement, and given a voice to the marginalized in country dialogues.

Fight for what counts

Thanks to unwavering support from partners like Australia, 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 proud to have Australia by our side as we **fight for what counts**.

In Papua New Guinea, 12-year-old Francis Wages Heroic Fight Against Drug-resistant Tuberculosis



In 2020, Francis was diagnosed with multidrug-resistant TB and was put on an aggressive treatment plan that included painful daily injections. After months in the hospital and an all-oral medication plan at home, Francis was cured of this deadly yet treatable disease.

The Global Fund, together with donors including Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is working to strengthen Papua New Guinea's national TB program. This includes improving case detection and diagnosis of drug-resistant TB through the procurement of GeneXpert diagnostic machines and cartridges; upgrading central- and provincial-level laboratory infrastructure; and ensuring adequate specimen transportation. Global Fund investments in Papua New Guinea also help with the procurement and distribution of first- and second-line TB medications and support the development and implementation of community TB care in 12 high-burden provinces. This work includes reinforcing the skills of health workers to care for children with TB like Francis.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund invests more than US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, equitable future for all. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have invested an additional US\$4.4 billion to fight the new pandemic and reinforce systems for health. We unite the world to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. It's working. Together, we have saved 44 million lives. We won't stop until the job is finished.