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FOCUS ON

The Middle East Response



To defeat these diseases we must follow the people wherever they are, regardless of their status, circumstance, or ethnic and religious background.

Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund

The fight against the three diseases is more important than ever in a world increasingly affected by conflict, disasters and economic crises. The worst refugee crisis since record-keeping began is affecting all parts of the world, particularly the Middle East – and as people move, so do diseases.

Preventable diseases like HIV, tuberculosis and malaria strain health systems that are already overburdened, leaving fewer resources to provide basic health services or prepare for emerging health threats. In refugee situations, stopping diseases from spreading not only protects already weakened refugees from falling ill, it frees up critical resources to treat other illnesses or provide other health services.

Our Partnership

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership that brings together governments, civil society, communities affected by the diseases, the private sector, faith-based organizations and philanthropists to accelerate the end of AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics.

Through programs supported by the Global Fund partnership, 17 million lives had been saved by the end of 2014, and the partnership is on track to reach 22 million lives saved by the end of 2016. To achieve more impact, the Global Fund adopts different approaches to investing and implementing in different countries and settings.

Middle East Response

In the Middle East, which is suffering the effects of conflict and coping with humanitarian crises and large numbers of internally displaced people and refugees, the Global Fund has launched a new initiative to increase efficiency and offer more flexibility.

The Middle East Response is designed to provide essential HIV, TB and malaria services to key and vulnerable populations including refugees, internally displaced people, women, children and other populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

Middle East Response Countries



SYRIA More than 12 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

YEMEN More than 25 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

IRAQ Approximately 8.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 250,000 Syrian refugees and over 3 million internally displaced persons.

LEBANON Lebanon is hosting 1.5 million refugees; TB is a risk among displaced communities.

JORDAN Jordan is hosting 700,000 Syrian refugees; TB is a risk among displaced communities.

PALESTINE The Global Fund supports HIV services and TB programs.

The Global Fund currently has HIV and TB grants in Syria and Palestine; TB, HIV and malaria grants for Yemen; a TB grant in Iraq; and an Emergency Fund grant that provides essential TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment in Jordan and Lebanon, focusing on Syrian refugees.

The Middle East Response consolidates all grants and will be tailored to fit the needs and challenges of those countries. Streamlining the implementation arrangements will ensure greater value for money and help the Global Fund reach more vulnerable populations. It will also support stronger regional partnerships that can deliver health services in conflict zones and hard-to-reach areas.

More flexible investments with a more focused scope will allow partners to adjust their programs as the country context changes, thus reaching key and vulnerable populations with quality services and more impactful interventions.

Because of conflict, these countries face constantly shifting needs, limited capacity and severe constraints to providing essential services. In Yemen, Iraq and Syria, most of the health facilities have been destroyed, and the health infrastructure in countries hosting displaced populations is overstretched.

The Middle East Response will support interventions with a human rights-based approach that affirms the right to health for key populations and other vulnerable groups, including refugees and internally displaced people.

Syrian Refugees

In cooperation with local and international partners, the Global Fund is supporting TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment services to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. The assistance comes from the Global Fund's Emergency Fund, a special initiative to provide quick, flexible access to funds in emergency situations.

Since the outbreak of the Syria crisis in 2011, more than 4.8 million Syrian refugees have sought shelter in neighboring countries, mostly in camps and informal settlements with no or limited access to health services. The Global Fund has invested US\$4.5 million in the TB response for refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. Since the program started, there have been more than 400 new cases of TB in Lebanon and Jordan alone.

Earlier this year, the Dutch Postcode Lottery announced a contribution of €2.5 million to the Global Fund to support the fight against TB among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. This generous contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery has been matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



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Abd Al Gader's Story

Abd Al Gader, a 12-year-old with big, dark eyes, could barely walk when he arrived at the Zaatari refugee camp in the Jordanian desert after escaping the war in Syria. Suffering from TB and having run out of medicine, Abd Al Gader fled with his family from their farm east of Damascus with the few belongings they could carry and embarked on a dangerous journey toward safety. Abd Al Gader's cough worsened as the family trekked for days, sleeping in the open during cold February nights and enduring shelling and thieves, before finally reaching the border. In Zaatari, the family settled into a temporary shelter and Abd Al Gader resumed his TB treatment at the camp's clinic. Today, cured of the disease, he is strong enough to play football with his friends in a dusty pitch and to attend one of the camp's schools.

Financial Support

The Global Fund's investments in the region for 2014-2017 amount to US\$ 70 million. Considering the massive needs, the destruction of health facilities and services across the region, and ongoing conflict, there are additional needs to deliver essential TB, HIV, malaria services to eligible country populations, internally displaced people, refugees and other conflict affected populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

Every three years, the Global Fund seeks financial support for its mission to end the three diseases and to build resilient and sustainable systems for health.

The Global Fund is aiming to raise US\$13 billion for the 2017-2019 funding cycle, which would allow the partnership to save up to eight million lives, avert up to 300 million infections and new cases of HIV, TB and malaria, and lay the groundwork for potential economic gains of up to US\$290 billion in the years ahead.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries.