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 contributes to the Global Fund results in approximately US$13 in investments to support Australia’s priority countries in the Indo-Pacific region. 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

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.
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have invested an additional US$4.4 billion to fight the new pandemic and reinforce 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.

“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.

In Papua New Guinea, 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.

“Breaking Down Barriers” aims to increase the number of people who are aware of their rights and are able to access justice. This is achieved through legal literacy training programs, which have reached more than 1,000 key population members in diverse locations. The initiative has also resulted in a new national HIV law and its implementing rules and regulations that have 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.

In Papua New Guinea, the Global Fund supports the government to scale up digital treatment adherence tools, such as video observed therapy and digital pill boxes that remind 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.

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.

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