The Netherlands and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The long-lasting partnership between the Netherlands and the Global Fund has played an important role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and in building an equitable, inclusive and healthier world.

Health investments through the Global Fund have saved more than 59 million lives since 2002.

Efforts by governments, communities and global health partners have resulted in extraordinary progress in the fight against the three diseases.

Between 2002 and 2022, in countries where the Global Fund invests, AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 72%, TB deaths by 16%, and malaria deaths by 27%.

Our partnership

The Netherlands has supported the Global Fund since its inception. It is the 10th-largest public donor to the Global Fund, with a total contribution of €1.16 billion to date. These investments have had a major impact, not only in terms of lives saved, but also in building resilient and sustainable systems for health, responding to emergencies spurred by climate change and conflict, and supporting programs to enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights.

At the Seventh Replenishment conference in September 2022, the Netherlands announced a pledge of €180 million for the 2023-2025 period. This represents a 15% increase over its Sixth Replenishment pledge, covering 2020-2022. The Dutch government is represented on the Global Fund Board and is a dynamic contributor in shaping governance policies, especially those that support human rights, gender equity, and resilient community systems and health systems.

Reducing poverty and social inequality is one of the overarching Dutch development cooperation policy goals. The Netherlands has developed an ambitious global health strategy and has committed to the elimination of HIV and TB by 2030.

The Netherlands’ pledges and contributions to the Global Fund, 2001-2025 (in € million)
Priority areas of our partnership

Human rights and gender equality
Inequities, human rights abuses and gender inequality undermine the fight against infectious diseases by creating barriers to essential health services and lifesaving health products. The Global Fund tackles these barriers with evidence-based programming, formulated and implemented with the direct participation and leadership of the populations that are most impacted by human rights abuses and gender inequalities. For instance, in Mozambique, the Viva+ project supported by the Global Fund has reached 150,000 women, girls, transgender women, and men who have sex with men with human rights education sessions that included modules focused on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. This was hailed as a critical part of Mozambique's broad and sustained efforts to promote human rights and reduce the disproportionate burden of HIV on young women and girls, including female sex workers.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights
Ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights is a key pillar of prevention, particularly for HIV and malaria. The Global Fund invests in prevention of malaria during pregnancy, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, integrated screening and testing for sexually transmitted infections, family planning, economic empowerment programs and comprehensive sexuality education. Adolescent girls and young women are a key focus of these investments. In 2022, approximately 120,000 adolescent girls and young women were newly infected with HIV in 13 focus countries in sub-Saharan Africa. While these are infections that could have been prevented, there has been a 67% reduction in incidence rate among adolescent girls and young women in these countries since 2010, indicating the effectiveness of focused interventions. In 2022, 2.5 million adolescent girls and young women were reached with HIV prevention programs in the same 13 countries.

Resilient and sustainable systems for health
The Global Fund is the world’s largest multilateral provider of grants for strengthening health and community systems. We invest 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.

Global Fund investments support countries in building stronger and more resilient health systems. We invest in human resources for health, including community health workers; community systems; data systems and digitalization of health; strengthening leadership and governance, financial management, procurement and supply systems; and surveillance.

Partnerships
The Global Fund is a partnership based on the core principle that everyone involved in the response to HIV, TB and malaria needs to be involved in the decision-making process. This includes technical agencies and development organizations – including UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, and the Stop TB Partnership – who play a crucial role in the Global Fund model.

These partners offer technical expertise, support resource mobilization and advocacy efforts, provide or support country coordination, and assist with stakeholder engagement.

At the international level, technical partners hold five non-voting seats on the Global Fund Board. At the country level, technical partners participate in the decision-making process through the Country Coordinating Mechanism.

Humanitarian settings
The Global Fund reacts quickly to humanitarian crises – we use our Emergency Fund to support those most in need. The Emergency Fund, established in 2014, provides quick and flexible financing in emergencies to ensure the continuity of existing programs and services for HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund disbursed US$132 million through the Emergency Fund between 2014 and April 2022. In response to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Global Fund has provided US$25.32 million in emergency funding to support HIV and TB treatment, prevention and care, including to internally displaced persons and hard-to-reach communities.

Country case study: Democratic Republic of the Congo
A community-centered approach is critical to reducing the spread of infectious diseases. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), COVID-19 containment and control required community involvement as a matter of priority. The Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) supported interventions that were co-owned by communities and were therefore contextually appropriate, relevant and effective at building trust.

C19RM investments funded the training of more than 24,000 community health care workers in DRC to deliver people-centered services for COVID-19, HIV, TB, malaria and basic primary health care components such as hygiene, vaccination and nutrition.

Community health workers in Lufu-Toto identified 11 out of a total 19 positive TB cases in their community. The quick detection of these cases prevented TB from continuing to spread. These investments have provided significant support for strengthening systems at a local level and contributed to preparedness for future disease outbreaks and emergencies.

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$5 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 59 million lives. We won’t stop until the job is finished.

September 2023 | www.theglobalfund.org