The Netherlands and the Global Fund

A Smart Investment

In 2000, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria appeared to be unstoppable. In many countries, AIDS devastated an entire generation, leaving countless orphans and shattered communities. Malaria killed young children and pregnant women unable to protect themselves from mosquitoes or access lifesaving medicine. Tuberculosis unfairly afflicted the poor, as it had for millennia.

The world fought back. The Netherlands had a leading role in this response. It joined with other governments, the private sector, civil society and people affected by the diseases to form the Global Fund, which pooled the world’s resources to invest strategically in programs to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics.

Saving Lives, Transforming Livelihoods

Seventeen years later, the Netherlands’ smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save more than 27 million lives. With contributions totalling more than EUR 919 million as of December 2018, the Netherlands is the 10th largest public donor to the Global Fund. In the last replenishment in 2016, the Netherlands pledged EUR166 million.

Priority Areas of Partnership

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Partners like the Netherlands are strong advocates for the Global Fund’s approach of integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights with HIV interventions and more broadly, for linking reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions with HIV, TB and malaria programs.
Human Rights and Key Populations: Dutch civil society has worked in partnership with the Dutch government and the Global Fund to reach people who are most vulnerable to diseases by removing human rights barriers to quality health care, allowing the partnership to reach more people and achieve greater impact. A significant component of this work involves support for key populations to respond appropriately to issues that predispose them to diseases and providing marginalized and vulnerable groups with the care and support they need to fight diseases. For instance, in harm-reduction programs, the partnership supports people who inject drugs by raising their awareness on behavioral risks associated with the practice, and by supplying them clean needles to avoid needle sharing.

Health and Education: Reaching children, adolescents and young adults with services that span health and education is a priority for the Global Fund. Efforts to end HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are intimately connected to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to deliver quality education for all, empower women and girls, and encourage inclusive economic growth.

Health and Migration: When health systems are overburdened by conflict, preventable diseases like HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are not prioritized, as resources are directed to provide basic health services or prepare for emerging health threats. In refugee situations, stopping diseases from spreading not only protects refugees from falling ill, but also frees up critical resources to treat other illnesses or provide other health services. The Global Fund invests in such programs, particularly in the Middle East. These investments strengthen global security and stability, making the world safer for all.

Innovation

The Netherlands is a key Global Fund partner in advancing innovation. Scientific advances, innovative ideas and private sector savvy are unlocking improvements in disease prevention, treatment and care – from faster delivery of essential medicines to embedding innovation. The Global Fund partnership draws on the best innovations from across sectors while stimulating new innovations for more rapid progress and greater impact, particularly in areas like procurement and supply chain management, financial and risk management and program quality.

Stepping Up the Fight

With all the breathtaking progress in recent years, we have the end of the epidemics within our reach, but not yet firmly in our grasp. The world is falling off the track to end these diseases. The Global Fund’s fundraising target for the next three-year cycle is at least US$14 billion. These funds will help save 16 million lives and cut the mortality rate from HIV, TB and malaria in half by 2023, while building stronger health systems. The Global Fund is also mobilizing partners toward ending HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030 in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The effort comes at a crucial moment. After years of remarkable progress in the fight against these diseases, new threats such as shortfalls in funding and increasing insecticide and drug resistance have slowed progress and enabled the diseases to gain ground. But if we pull together and step up the fight against these diseases, we can end them as epidemics once and for all.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis 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. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

March 2019
theglobalfund.org