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. Sweden played 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.

Saving Lives, Transforming Livelihoods

Seventeen years later, Sweden’s smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save more than 27 million lives. With contributions totalling more than US$1.34 billion as of December 2018, Sweden is the eighth-largest public donor to the Global Fund. In the last replenishment in 2016, Sweden pledged SEK2.5 billion.

Annual Swedish Contribution to the Global Fund

The Swedish government is represented on the Global Fund’s Board and is a dynamic contributor in shaping governance policies, especially focusing on supporting better investments in building stronger health systems, disease prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights, key populations and human rights.

Lives saved are cumulative since 2002. All other results were achieved in 2017 in countries where the Global Fund invests.
Priority Areas of Partnership

Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health: Robust systems for health are not only essential to ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics, but they yield broader outcomes, delivering health care in a sustainable, equitable and effective way. Twenty-seven percent of the Global Fund's investments are dedicated to addressing areas that are critical for stronger health systems, including training for community health workers, laboratories, data management and supply chain.

Robust health systems that focus on prevention, detection and treatment are also a primary line of defense against outbreaks, helping countries prepare for emerging threats to regional and global health security. The Global Fund invests about US$4 billion a year to fight HIV, TB and malaria. Of that money, about US$1 billion is invested in strengthening health systems, making the Global Fund the largest provider of grants to build health systems among the multilateral institutions.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Partners like Sweden are strong advocates for the Global Fund's approach of addressing linked sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV needs. More broadly we encourage partners to streamline and integrate reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions with HIV, TB and malaria programs.

Investing in Gender Equality, Key Populations and Human Rights: Too often, people most affected by diseases are the same people who don't have access to health care. Factors such as stigma, discrimination and criminalization are among the barriers that prevent them from accessing health services. The Global Fund is committed to supporting programs aimed at overcoming human rights barriers so everyone can access the health services they need. The best way to get this right is to ensure that key populations have a role and voice in the design, implementation and monitoring of health services, as well as in policy decisions that affect them.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious, global and interconnected. The Global Fund’s mission to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics is aligned with Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing. But achieving health and well-being cannot be separated from ending poverty (Goal 1) and hunger (Goal 2), ensuring education (Goal 4) and ending the gender discrimination that fuels the diseases, especially HIV (Goal 5). Progress in each of these foundational goals accelerates impact in all of the others. To prevent millions of avoidable deaths each year from both infectious and non-communicable disease, the Global Fund also contributes to the goal of universal health coverage. Achieving the SDGs requires an integrated approach between many partners – from international agencies to national ministries and local community groups.

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.

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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.