At the G8 Summit in Kyushu-Okinawa in 2000, Japan’s leadership in global health was fundamental to the creation of the Global Fund, and in rallying world leaders to combat the deadliest infectious diseases of our times: AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

"...then-Prime Minister Mori invited African heads of state and government to the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit – a first in the history of the G8 summit. Furthermore, combating infectious diseases was taken up as one of the summit’s major agenda items – again a first in G8 summit history. This became a G8 Initiative and ultimately led to the birth of the Global Fund... Japan is of course delighted to have played a role in the Fund’s creation.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, May 2008

Seventeen years after the historic summit in Kyushu-Okinawa, thanks to the extraordinary support and direction of Japan and other partners, the Millennium Development Goal target of reversing the spread of HIV, TB and malaria has been met. Deaths and new infections are in decline. Scientific advances, innovative ideas and private-sector savvy are unlocking improvements in disease prevention, treatment and care – from faster delivery of essential medicines to more effective methods of reaching the people most in need.

Together, Japan and the Global Fund have achieved critical gains in expanding access to health services for the world’s most vulnerable and at-risk populations. Strengthening access to quality health care for all is fundamental to human security: protecting families from preventable diseases and eliminating health threats that jeopardize communities’ progress. Universal health coverage, included in the new Sustainable Development Goals, is a critical component of the mission to end epidemics.

In May 2016 Japan announced a pledge of US$800 million to the Global Fund for the Fifth Replenishment that started in 2017, representing a 46 percent increase when measured in Japanese yen, (due to fluctuating exchange rates). Coming just before Japan’s hosting of the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, the commitment signals Japan’s steadfast leadership in global health.
Funding and Results

Since the Global Fund was created in 2002, Japan has contributed US$2.53 billion (as of 31 December 2016) to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, making it the fifth-largest donor. This investment has supported many countries in Africa and Asia in their fight against the three diseases. The results have been momentous. Smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have saved more than 22 million lives, expanding opportunity and achieving greater human security for families and communities worldwide.

Contributions of Major Public Donors to the Global Fund as of 31 December 2016

1. United States  US$12,505,624,120
2. France  US$4,791,007,923
3. United Kingdom  US$3,066,284,307
4. Germany  US$2,828,179,787
5. Japan  US$2,525,690,157
7. Canada  US$1,874,806,186
8. Sweden  US$1,153,505,857
9. Italy  US$1,126,477,052
10. The Netherlands  US$1,037,066,390

Our Approach

Japan is represented on the Global Fund’s Board, playing a prominent role in both oversight and financial management of Global Fund resources and ensuring optimal performance in the operations and corporate management of the Global Fund Secretariat through its participation in the Board’s Strategy Committee. In addition to its partnership with the Global Fund, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provides bilateral aid to countries through technical cooperation, loans and grants. As of April 2015, local delegations of the Japanese government and JICA are part of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (the...
in-country committee of community, government and health experts that develop and guide Global Fund-supported programs) in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Laos, Nigeria, Philippines, and Sudan and in the Regional Malaria Control Commission program.

Universal Health Coverage

Japan championed the inclusion of universal health coverage in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015. Universal health coverage aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere can access quality health services without suffering financial hardship. It strives to break down barriers to health, such as affordability, access and insufficient health systems. Investments made by the Global Fund partnership expand access to essential health services and advance universal health coverage by helping countries provide equitable and financially accessible health services to the most vulnerable. At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his ambition to establish an alliance to bring together expertise and resources to strengthen health systems towards the ultimate goal of achieving universal health coverage.

Building Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health

The core mission of the Global Fund – to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics – can only be achieved with effective systems for health: a combination of stronger health systems including improved facilities, health care, training for health workers, information management, access, and community support and response mechanisms. One-third of Global Fund investments support countries to build resilient and sustainable systems for health, which promote health and well-being while protecting against disease outbreaks and emerging health threats. Global Fund investments in the treatment and prevention of HIV, TB and malaria don’t just improve the response to those diseases – they improve countries’ overall health systems, boosting the quality of care, data tracking and services, improving maternal and child health, and preparing countries to address emerging health challenges. This mutually reinforcing relationship between funding for disease-control programs and funding for cross-cutting aspects of health systems is a cornerstone of the Global Fund’s approach to investment.

“Making health care accessible and affordable for all has a powerful impact on human lives, and ending epidemics is part of the solution. Our collective efforts are critical to building stronger, more resilient systems for health that can bring greater opportunity for social justice to all.”

Dr. Mark Dybul, former Executive Director of the Global Fund
Japan and the Private Sector

The private sector is an important partner in the fight against the three diseases, providing critical financial resources and contributing expertise, providing training, participating in governance, and raising awareness about the diseases. For example, Sumitomo Chemical partners with A to Z Textile Mills in Tanzania, a producer of long-lasting insecticidal nets. A to Z produces 30 million nets per year and the Global Fund supports the purchase of these nets through programs in Tanzania and other countries in East Africa. Takeda Pharmaceutical has committed JP ¥ 100,000,000 (approximately US$1 million) annually to the Global Fund for the 2010-2019 period, supporting programs in Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and Senegal (from 2010-2013) for strengthening health care services and systems, and training and building the skills of health workers and partners. Japanese companies such as Toyota, Nissan, Sumitomo Chemical, Meiji Seika Pharma, Fujirebio, Alere Medical (based in Japan), and Olympus are also major suppliers of health products to the Global Fund, providing nets to protect families from malaria, treatment for TB, diagnostic tests for HIV, and microscopes and health equipment.

Seizing the Momentum

With all of the amazing progress in recent years, and the unwavering global commitment and support from countries like Japan, we have the potential to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics by 2030. But we can’t stop now – so many more lives are still at risk that we must seize the momentum. The Global Fund is honored to have Japan as a strong partner to help achieve this milestone.

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. The Global Fund’s operating costs are approximately 2 percent of grants under management, reflecting an exceptionally high degree of efficiency. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.