Canada and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Twenty years of partnership between Canada and the Global Fund has played an important role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and in building a healthier, safer and more equitable world.

Health investments through the Global Fund have saved more than 44 million lives since 2002, revitalizing entire communities and improving economies.

Turning the tide on AIDS, TB and malaria

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

Our partnership

Canada has been a strong supporter of the Global Fund from the very beginning, investing about CAD 369 billion since the Global Fund was founded in 2002. These investments have had a major impact – not only in saving lives, but also in breaking down gender and human rights-related barriers to health, supporting the inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making structures, and building resilient and sustainable systems for health.

Canada is the sixth-largest public donor to the Global Fund and pledged CAD 930.4 million for 2020-2022 – a 15.7% increase from its previous pledge. Canada also hosted the Global Fund’s Fifth Replenishment Conference in September 2016. In the last two years, Canada has allocated CAD 125 million to the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism, supporting the scale up of diagnostics, treatments (including medical oxygen) and critical elements of resilient and sustainable systems for health.

Community and civil society in Canada play a crucial role in advocating for the global fight against HIV, TB and malaria and in bolstering Canada’s contribution to global health investments. The Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) Secretariat is partially based in Ottawa and works with advocates, activists and communities affected by the three diseases, as well as with Friends of the Fund organizations.

Between 2002 and 2020, in countries where the Global Fund invests, total AIDS-related deaths have dropped by 65%, TB deaths have dropped by 21% and malaria deaths have dropped by 47%.
Priority areas of our partnership
Canada’s foreign policy priorities are strongly mirrored in the Global Fund’s strategy and investments. Fighting pandemics – old and new – demands strong and inclusive institutions and respect for human rights and gender equality.

Reaching the most vulnerable
The Global Fund prioritizes lower-income countries with a higher burden of disease, while paying special attention to HIV epidemics amongkey and vulnerable populations, the threat of multdrug-resistant TB, and the risk of malaria resurgence. Seventy-four percent of our funding goes to sub-Saharan Africa. Challenging operating environments (COEs) – countries or regions affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural disasters, weak governance, among other challenges – host less than 14% of the world’s population but account for approximately one-third of the global disease burden for HIV, TB and malaria.

That is why the Global Fund prioritizes health needs in COEs to increase coverage of HIV, TB and malaria prevention and treatment services, reach key and vulnerable populations and save lives. COEs, because of their complex needs and the obstacles they present, account for approximately 30% of the Global Fund allocation.

Gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights
As part of its feminist foreign affairs policy, Canada prioritizes gender equality and sexual and reproductive health – a key strategic focus for the Global Fund. A focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights cut across all Global Fund investments.

The Global Fund invests in treatment and prevention programs, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, prevention of malaria during pregnancy, 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.

Adolescent girls and young women are a key focus of our HIV response. The Global Fund has significantly increased our investments in this group, focusing on 13 priority countries where the HIV burden is highest. In these countries, new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women have dropped by 41% since 2010.

Breaking down barriers to advance human rights
The Global Fund partnership seeks to knock down barriers to health services by investing in human rights and gender-responsive programs. We have increased our investments in this effort more than four-fold in recent years.

For HIV, the Global Fund is the leading external funder of key population programs across many regions as well as the biggest investor in harm reduction programs for people who inject drugs.

Resilient and sustainable systems for health: a foundation for pandemic preparedness and response
The Global Fund is the largest multilateral provider of grants for strengthening systems for health. Over the 2021-2023 funding cycle, we are investing 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.

As the leading multilateral agency in the fight against the world’s deadliest infectious diseases – HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 – the Global Fund partnership is uniquely placed to work with partners to support countries to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics.

Fight for what counts
Thanks to unwavering support from partners like Canada, we have proven we can force HIV, TB and malaria into retreat. But we can’t stop now. With millions of lives still at risk, we must move faster to end the three diseases as public health threats and build resilient and sustainable systems for health, and thus reinforce pandemic preparedness.

For the Seventh Replenishment, the Global Fund needs at least US$18 billion
In the Sixth Replenishment, we reached our US$14 billion target. The sharp increase of almost 30% for the Seventh Replenishment reflects the stark fact that because of COVID-19, global resource needs for HIV, TB and malaria have significantly increased.

With this renewed commitment and investment, between 2024 and 2026, our partnership estimates it will be able to save 20 million lives, avert more than 450 million infections or cases, and yield a return on investment of 1:31 with every dollar invested in fighting HIV, TB and malaria, resulting in US$31 in health gains and economic returns.

Together, we can protect everyone, everywhere from infectious diseases and build a healthier, more equitable world. The Global Fund is proud to have Canada by our side as we fight for what counts.

Kenya:
Reaching Girls and Young Women
Carolyne Wasonga is one of 400 peer educators who are part of a Global Fund-supported program aimed at reaching adolescent girls and young women with HIV prevention, treatment and care. Girls are also taught about their rights and how to protect them and are provided with safe channels to report cases of gender-based violence.

Adolescent girls account for more than 25% of HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa, despite making up only 10% of the population.

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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