France 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, and France played a leading role in this response. The country 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.

Nearly two decades later, France’s smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save 32 million lives.

A Leader in Global Health

France is the third-largest donor in global health after the United States and the United Kingdom, and is committed to increasing its total official development assistance by 2022. France is a founding member of the Global Fund. As the largest European donor and the second-largest public donor to the Global Fund, it has contributed a total of €4.61 billion to date. France pledged €1.08 billion for 2017-2019.

Lives saved are cumulative since 2002. All other results were achieved in 2018 in countries where the Global Fund invests.

PEOPLE TESTED AND TREATED FOR TUBERCULOSIS 5.3 MILLION

PEOPLE ON ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY FOR HIV 18.9 MILLION

MOSQUITO NETS DISTRIBUTED TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM MALARIA 131 MILLION

LIVES SAVED FROM AIDS, TB AND MALARIA 32 MILLION

Pledges and Contributions

France is also a founding member of Unitaid, a partner organization of the Global Fund that works to accelerate the introduction of innovative and cost-effective ways to prevent and treat HIV, TB and malaria, thereby increasing the impact of Global Fund’s investments.

In addition, France funds, designs and implements various projects to support countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Expertise France. In 2018, AFD’s commitments amounted to €11.4 billion.
Civil society organizations in France play a crucial role in mobilizing public and political support for the Global Fund. They also advocate for increased investments to tackle human rights barriers to health, improve gender equality, and strengthen community systems, which are key pillars of the Global Fund strategy and at the heart of France’s development policy priorities.

**Priority Areas of Partnership**

**Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health**: Robust systems for health are essential to ending epidemics and for delivering care in a sustainable, equitable and effective way. The Global Fund invests about US$1 billion per year in strengthening health systems – making the Global Fund the largest provider of grants to build health systems among multilateral institutions. The Global Fund is a member of UHC2030, a platform that promotes collaborative work on health system strengthening and advocates for political commitment to universal health coverage.

**Universal Health Coverage**: France champions the inclusion of universal health coverage (UHC) in the Sustainable Development Goals. UHC aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere can access quality health services without suffering financial hardship. It requires removing barriers to health, and improving affordability, accessibility and quality of health systems. The Global Fund's strategy for 2017-2022 is committed to supporting resilient and sustainable systems for health, and promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality – two critical foundations of universal health coverage.

**Human Rights**: When people's rights are not realized, they not only suffer hardship and abuse, they often cannot participate in protecting their own health. In particular, many of those most affected by the three diseases are so marginalized that they have little or no access to prevention and treatment services, or are denied them outright. The Global Fund is taking a pragmatic and programmatic approach to reducing human rights barriers to health services. This emphasis on human rights increases the effectiveness of Global Fund grants and helps maximize uptake of services and retention in services, particularly for the most vulnerable.

**Women and Girls**: Gender inequality, discrimination, violence, limited access to education and a lack of tailored services inhibit women’s and girls’ access to health care and fuel new HIV, TB and malaria infections. The Global Fund has increased investments more than five-fold to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the most affected countries, including investment in more holistic programs such as comprehensive sexual education, and helping girls stay in school and become economically independent.

**Investing in Challenging Operating Environments**: Challenging operating environments are countries or regions characterized by weak governance, poor access to health services, and manmade or natural crises. In 2017, the Global Fund invested nearly US$147 million in five Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad – with the aim of improving access to health care for the most vulnerable populations and to contribute to development and stability of the region. These efforts have helped reverse the trend of infections related to the three diseases while strengthening health systems. To maximize the impact of these investments, the Global Fund works with partners, notably the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Expertise France, to consolidate joint development efforts.

**Stepping Up The Fight**

Ending the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria by 2030 is within reach, but not yet firmly in our grasp. After years of remarkable progress, new threats have pushed us off track. We now face a decisive moment. Do we step up the fight, or do we allow ourselves to slip back? 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. It is time to step up the fight to end the epidemics by 2030.

**About the Global Fund**

The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. As an international organization, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests more than US$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. In partnership with governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, we are challenging barriers and embracing innovation.