

Building Strong Health and Community Systems Through Catalytic Investments

At a glance

Catalytic investments address specific health priorities that are crucial for achieving global health goals and delivering the Global Fund's Strategy.

Catalytic investments are designed to support strategic initiatives that boost Global Fund grants to fight HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and strengthen health and community systems. They have proven to be an effective funding mechanism for supporting innovation scale-up, driving progress in highly targeted program areas and toward strategic priorities, and amplifying the impact of investments.

By collaborating with the Global Fund through catalytic investments, private sector partners can spur innovation and support focused, evidence-based programming approaches to increase impact in specific priority areas that align with their organizational goals. Every Global Fund private sector partnership drives impact – and saves many more lives.

The Global Fund partnership presents an unprecedented opportunity for the private sector to make a significant impact in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, strengthen health systems and address gender- and human rights-related barriers to health services. With new, innovative solutions and partners in catalytic investment, we can move faster to end the three diseases and build stronger systems that can withstand crises and respond to emerging pandemic threats.

**US\$4.3
billion**

Private sector and nongovernment partners have contributed over US\$4.3 billion as of February 2024 to expand the reach of Global Fund investments and save millions of lives.

Pauline Bimbamba, a community health worker, uses the CommCare mobile application on her phone while visiting a father and his child in Zongo village, Burkina Faso. The CommCare app is used to register and consult client data more efficiently and is a key part of Burkina Faso's roadmap to digitize community health care.



Case study: Private sector investment has powered transformative change through the Global Fund’s Data Science Catalytic Fund (DSCF).

Stronger last mile data for better community health

Digital health is a powerful component of resilient and sustainable health and community systems. With the support of a US\$15 million investment from The Rockefeller Foundation and an additional US\$10 million committed by the Global Fund, the DSCF played a pivotal role in advancing digital health initiatives in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda throughout 2022 and 2023.

Key outcomes

The DSCF enhanced the digitization of community health information systems (CHIS), helping to streamline health care delivery and strengthen pandemic preparedness.

- **Burkina Faso:** 4,352 community health care workers were using the electronic community health information systems (eCHIS) by December 2023 – up from zero in August 2022.
- **Ethiopia:** 3 million additional people were registered on the eCHIS between August 2022 and December 2023 (20 million in total, up from 17 million).
- **Rwanda:** By December 2023, an eCHIS was developed, 600 community health workers were trained on the system and a pilot was ready to be implemented – a significant advancement from August 2022, when eCHIS was in pre-development.
- **Uganda:** 10,287 community health workers were using the eCHIS by December 2023 – an increase of 110% from August 2022.

The DSCF catalyzed foundational health information system progress in all countries where it was implemented.

-  **Public-private partnerships** initiated through the DSCF supported digitization efforts, resulting in innovative solutions and improved health service delivery.
-  **Governance and leadership** bodies in all four countries were established to oversee CHIS digitization, ensuring effective stewardship, transparency and accountability. Digital health strategic plans aligned with national health strategies were developed.
-  **Financial and funding mechanisms** improved, and each country increased budget allocations for eCHIS and explored incentives for private sector contributions (although funding from donors remains crucial).
-  Efforts to ensure **interoperability** of digital health solutions progressed in each country. Data collection and transfer improved due to new or enhanced digital tools, helping to optimize **decision-making and health service delivery**.

Amplifying impact and value

Catalytic investments can initiate or accelerate programs that become a stepping stone to further progress. Digital health initiatives kickstarted by the DSCF are being leveraged by the Digital Health Impact Accelerator (DHIA), a US\$50 million catalytic fund developed by the Global Fund and private sector partners, to accelerate countries’ digital health transformation in sub-Saharan Africa. The DHIA is scaling these interventions further, amplifying the DSCF’s proven impact and creating additional value.

The power of partnership

The success of the DSCF, the DHIA and other catalytic funding partnerships shows that private sector investments can address numerous challenges that hinder equitable access to quality health care, including resource limitations and fragmentation and interoperability of systems.

Private sector donors can continue to drive transformative change in health and community systems in low- and middle-income countries by partnering with the Global Fund in key strategic areas:

Digital health | Laboratory systems | Community health workers | Climate and health

Strategic investment in these areas will support country-owned and country-led health programs that are tailored to reach those most in need and strengthen entire health systems, and will contribute to accelerating impact in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria. Together, we can save lives and work with countries to build stronger and more inclusive systems for health.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We raise and invest more than US\$5 billion a year to fight the deadliest infectious diseases, challenge the injustice that fuels them, and strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness in more than 100 of the hardest hit countries. We unite world leaders, communities, civil society, health workers and the private sector to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved 65 million lives.