

Thematic Report



The Global Fund and Children



Children are at the center of the Global Fund's response to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



Protecting children from HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria today helps build healthier, more resilient communities for generations to come. Across the countries where the Global Fund invests, our partnership works to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow and thrive, with continued access to lifesaving healthcare, including prevention, treatment and care services. From the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to child-friendly approaches to prevent and treat TB to tools to protect children and pregnant women from malaria, Global Fund investments are strengthening the essential systems that underpin primary healthcare and keep children safe from infectious disease threats.

Too many children are being left behind in the HIV response. Addressing this disparity by extending the access, quality and reach of HIV prevention and treatment services is an urgent priority for the Global Fund partnership.

To keep mothers and babies healthy and prevent HIV transmission, the Global Fund supports a continuum of care for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV, from treatment services and prevention of mother-to-child transmission to peer support, HIV self-testing and postnatal follow-up, often through community and mentor mother networks.

To support children living with HIV, together with Unitaaid we have accelerated the rollout of pediatric dolutegravir – an HIV treatment specifically designed to be easier for children to take and adhere to.

Our support to adolescent girls and young women focuses on maintaining lifesaving treatment and preserving the most critical prevention services. We continue to prioritize investments that support adolescent girls and young women who face heightened vulnerability to HIV, particularly in high-incidence countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.



The Global Fund/Vincent Becker

Across the countries where the Global Fund invests, we support country-led efforts to integrate lifesaving HIV services into primary healthcare services for women and families, including community-based testing and treatment, health worker training, HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis testing as part of antenatal care, PrEP awareness and access, and early infant HIV diagnosis and follow-up testing. In Bamako, Mali, child psychologist Dr. Lountani Sissoko offers counseling to children living with HIV at CESAC, the first HIV clinic in Mali, which currently supports 427 children living with HIV.

Our impact at a glance

- **674,000**
children aged 0-14 living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2025.
- **444,000**
infants exposed to HIV were tested for HIV in 2025.
- **92,000**
adolescent girls and young women received antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in 2025.
- **1.59 million**
adolescents and young people accessed HIV testing in 2025.
- More than **2.3 million** adolescent girls and young women were reached with HIV prevention programs in 2025.
- **623,000**
pregnant women living with HIV received ART in 2025 to keep them alive and prevent transmission to their babies.
- **53 countries**
had used the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism to obtain pediatric dolutegravir by the end of 2025, and 27 had sourced pediatric abacavir/lamivudine/ dolutegravir, a newer, child-friendly option that is helping to improve uptake and viral load suppression among children living with HIV.
- The number of children orphaned by AIDS in Global Fund-supported countries has declined by more than 33%, from more than 18 million in 2010 to **12 million** in 2025.



Malaria



The Global Fund/Brian Otieno

“Students can understand how the challenges they are facing can be solved,”

Angela says.

Malaria remains a daunting global health challenge that is particularly devastating for pregnant women and young children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa.

Globally, malaria kills one child every minute. In 2024, more than 1 in 3 pregnant women in Africa were diagnosed with the disease.

To protect the women and children most at risk, the Global Fund invests in antenatal care that integrates malaria screening and prevention services and supports proven, lifesaving prevention tools for children and families, including the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and seasonal malaria chemoprevention medicine. The Global Fund also works with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to support the inclusion and rollout of childhood malaria vaccines as part of broader prevention efforts. The Global Fund is also investing in a number of innovations to improve protection for children, including more accurate, age- and weight-appropriate treatment dosing for children under 5 and insecticide-treated baby wraps.

Malaria is a deadly and persistent threat in Kenya. Angela is the student body president and a member of St. Anne's Ahero Comprehensive School Health Club – a group of students who meet weekly to discuss the health issues that affect them, including malaria. With support from the Global Fund, 20 such clubs have been established across schools in the area. Equipped with the knowledge to raise awareness among their peers, Health Club members serve as trusted sources of information in their schools and communities.

Our impact at a glance

- **52.1 million** children received seasonal malaria chemoprevention in 2025. The cost of seasonal malaria chemoprevention is approximately US\$4 per child, per year, making it a highly cost-effective method to prevent malaria.
- **734,000** infants received the complete course of perennial malaria chemoprevention in 2025.
- **196 million** insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed to protect families from malaria in 2025.
- **19.9 million** pregnant women received at least three doses of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) in 2025 to protect both themselves and their fetuses from malaria-related complications. The percentage of women who received at least three doses of IPTp ranged from 40% to 94% across the countries where the Global Fund invests, with the Republic of the Congo demonstrating the strongest performance.



Tuberculosis

The Global Fund supports countries to expand access to child-friendly TB diagnostics, treatment and care to reach the many children who fall ill with TB every year. These include digital radiology, rapid molecular testing

and alternative sample types (such as stool samples or tongue swabs), as well as TB medicines specially formulated for children.

The Global Fund is working closely with countries to prioritize children within national TB programs and

to integrate pediatric TB services into family-centered care, HIV services, nutrition programs and primary healthcare, helping children receive timely diagnosis and treatment while strengthening the health system as a whole.



Global Fund investments contribute to national TB programs and the achievement of broader country-level TB results. Globally in 2024:

- **669,000** children aged 0-14 years were diagnosed with TB and started treatment.
- The treatment success among children aged 0-14 reached **92%.**
- **640,000** children under 5 who were in contact with a TB patient received TB preventive treatment.

Adinda Novia, two-and-a-half years old, was diagnosed with drug-susceptible TB after her grandmother was also diagnosed with the disease. Adinda has been on treatment for two weeks and her child-friendly treatment course will last 6 months. She takes an orange-flavored tablet that dissolves in water. Adinda lives within the catchment area of Puskesmas Pakusari, the nearest health clinic in the countryside around the city of Jember, East Java, Indonesia.

Health and Community Systems

Global Fund investments in broader health systems strengthen many of the platforms on which maternal and child health services depend. Through our investments in community health workers and the broader health workforce, integrated primary healthcare, reliable supply chains, health information systems, surveillance and laboratory systems, and medical oxygen and respiratory care, the Global Fund helps ensure that mothers and children can access the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services they need to lead healthy lives.

Oxygen for mothers and newborns in Mozambique

Nampula Central Hospital is the largest referral hospital in northern Mozambique, serving a population of more than 7 million people, and taking on the most severe maternal and newborn emergencies. The workload is immense, with up to 50 deliveries a day, overcrowded wards, women sharing beds and newborns sharing incubators. Recent investments from the Global Fund and partners have strengthened the hospital's oxygen production, piped oxygen network, compressed medical air and vacuum systems. For women experiencing life-threatening complications during pregnancy and childbirth, and for critically ill newborns, these systems are a matter of life and death.



A child born in Ethiopia today is nearly three times more likely to survive to their fifth birthday than a child born in 2000. A major contributor to this success has been a 71% drop in under-5 deaths from AIDS, TB and malaria. Since 2003, the Global Fund has invested over US\$3 billion in Ethiopia to combat HIV, TB and malaria and strengthen the country's health systems. These investments support Ethiopia's journey toward self-sufficiency – enabling it to tackle the world's deadliest diseases and strengthen global health security.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat AIDS, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We raise and invest over US\$4 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 72 million lives.