

Francophone Countries



The partnership between francophone countries¹ and the Global Fund in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria has achieved tremendous impact over the last two decades.

Since its inception, the Global Fund has invested US\$12.7 billion in the fight against the three diseases in francophone countries: US\$5.8 billion for HIV and AIDS, US\$5.5 billion for malaria and US\$1 billion for TB. These investments – which make up 23% of the overall Global Fund portfolio – coupled with domestic finances from countries where the Global Fund invests have achieved great results.

As of 2020, the Global Fund partnership has saved 5.8 million lives in these countries.

The Global Fund's bold and ambitious new Strategy, "Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World" (2023-2028) puts greater emphasis on equity, sustainability, program quality and innovation. The Strategy takes determined action to tackle human rights and gender-related barriers, and leverage the fight against HIV, TB and malaria to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable systems for health better able to deliver health and well-being, and to prevent, identify and respond to pandemics.

¹ The Global Fund supports programs in 28 francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

Since the Global Fund was founded in 2002, the partnership has achieved the following cumulative key results in francophone countries:



2.2 million

people on antiretroviral therapy



4.1 million

people treated for TB



479 million

mosquito nets distributed

Most investments by the Global Fund partnership in francophone countries are in West Africa, which carries a significant proportion of the world's malaria and HIV burdens. Global Fund investments in these countries therefore tend to skew toward those two diseases, with 46% of total investments directed to HIV programs and 43% directed to malaria.

Malaria

About 482 million people are at risk for malaria in francophone countries. West Africa, which is predominately francophone, is disproportionately affected by the disease, and accounts for half of the global burden. The Global Fund partnership has made significant strides against the disease, leading to a 53% decline in malaria mortality rates between 2000 and 2020 in francophone Africa. During the same period, malaria mortality rates dropped dramatically in Burkina Faso and Viet Nam – 73% and 89% respectively.

The Global Fund works with communities to ensure that young children and pregnant women in particular are protected by mosquito nets. In 2020, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo all reported that more than half of the population at risk of malaria had access to an insecticide-treated net.

In West Africa in 2020, the Global Fund worked with partners to implement new strategies to distribute mosquito nets to protect families from malaria despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Niger, the National Malaria Control Program delivered 8 million mosquito nets to families in 44 health districts, with support from partners including the Global Fund and Catholic Relief Services. Health workers delivered nets door to door, avoiding crowds at pick-up points to reduce risk of COVID-19 infection.

For the first time, community health workers in Benin went door to door to distribute more than 8 million mosquito nets across the country. About 5,500 community workers were mobilized to complete this lifesaving activity in 20 days.

HIV

The HIV burden is lower in francophone African countries than in the rest of the continent; however, they account for 11% of all new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa. Through Global Fund-supported programs, antiretroviral therapy coverage in francophone Africa significantly increased from 4% in 2005 to 69% in 2020. AIDS-related deaths decreased by 62% among all the francophone countries, 82% in Rwanda and 63% in Cambodia since 2000. Incidence rates declined by 94% in Côte d'Ivoire and 85% in Cameroon since 2000.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Global Fund has worked closely with global health partners to support the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain essential health services. In 2020, using Global Fund grant flexibilities, patients received a one- to three-month drug supply for HIV and TB treatments to reduce daily travels to health centers.

Tuberculosis

Through Global Fund-supported programs, TB mortality rates dropped by 76% in Viet Nam and by 58% in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin between 2000 and 2020. These countries, along with Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are among the 30 nations considered to have a high burden of TB.

Resilient and sustainable systems for health

Strong health systems are essential for ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics, accelerating progress toward universal health coverage, and helping countries prepare for emerging threats to global health security.

Investments made in health systems to fight TB have been used by francophone countries in the fight against COVID-19. In Senegal and Viet Nam for example, leaders reduced the spread of COVID-19 with robust public health systems and prompt and extensive test, trace and isolate strategies. Investments by the Global Fund and other multilateral organizations over the past two decades to fight HIV, TB and malaria have progressively reinforced the Senegalese et Vietnamese health systems. Those investments have also been leveraged to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Overcoming human rights barriers to services

The Global Fund puts a strong emphasis on expanding comprehensive health and other support services for key populations. It promotes the meaningful engagement of key and vulnerable populations throughout the planning and implementation of grants. Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal are among the 20 countries that are receiving intensive support from the Global Fund during the 2017-2022 period to develop inclusive responses to the three diseases through the "Breaking Down Barriers" initiative.

For example, through this initiative, the Global Fund is supporting Cameroon's efforts to identify and remove human rights-related barriers to access, uptake and retention in HIV and TB services for people living with HIV and other key and vulnerable populations who have insufficient access to these services in the country. Global Fund-supported

programs work to remove barriers to services, such as legal empowerment and access to justice to address stigma, discrimination and violence.

Defending Transgender Rights in Cameroon



The Global Fund/
Kemdongmo Djeufo
Emmanuel

For Kiki, a transgender woman in Yaoundé, Cameroon, living with the constant threat of violence and arrest while being stigmatized and shunned is part of everyday life.

Cameroon is one of the more than 70 countries worldwide where discriminatory laws criminalize same-sex relationships, exposing millions to the risk of being arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned based solely on their gender identity or sexual orientation. It also results in members of the LGBTQI community too often being cut off from health care and having their rights violated.

But these seemingly insurmountable hurdles haven't held Kiki back from working and advocating to protect the rights of people in her community. She is the founding president of Positive Vision Cameroon, an organization that is a partner of the Global Fund and works to protect the rights of transgender people, including their right to access health care such as HIV prevention and treatment services.

Challenging operating environments

Challenging operating environments are countries or regions affected by poor governance, disasters or conflict. Countries in the Sahel are increasingly forced to dedicate a significant amount of their national budgets to address security threats. The Global Fund invests in the region to integrate health services in emergency responses and increase access to care for the most vulnerable populations.

The Sahel region is home to some of the world's highest rates of malaria worldwide, with children under 5 being particularly vulnerable. But seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaigns are proving effective by providing children with preventive malaria treatment that protects them from the disease. Despite the insecurity across the country and challenges related to COVID-19, the Global Fund and partners rolled out a national SMC campaign in Burkina Faso from July to October 2020, with the aim of reaching 4.5 million children under 5 years old. It is estimated that investments in SMC campaigns across the Sahel from 2015 to 2020 have prevented over 22.5 million malaria cases and 100,000 deaths.

Women and girls

Adolescent girls and young women disproportionately suffer the burden of the HIV epidemic across sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Fund and partners are expanding innovative programs to meet this population's unique needs.

Supporting Women and Girls as Leaders in Health



In 2021, The Global Fund and Fondation CHANEL signed a new agreement to set up a civil society-led fund to strengthen women's and girls' engagement in developing health policies, including Global Fund-related processes, in western and central Africa. The partnership, worth US\$1.5 million, will run for three years starting in Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Historically, women and girls have been widely excluded from decision-making spaces and programs that affect their health and well-being. This is especially so in francophone western and central Africa, which are regions characterized by persistent social, economic and political gender inequalities. These factors contribute to poor health outcomes among women and girls. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new partnership, entitled Voix EssentiELLES, aims to address these challenges by supporting women's and girls' groups and organizations to increase their engagement in shaping public health programs and policies that address their needs. It will serve as an important initiative to support women and girls to assume leadership positions in health policy and grant implementation processes with the goal of addressing inequalities that impact their health.

Domestic financing

The Global Fund also acts as a powerful catalyst for domestic resource mobilization through co-financing requirements as well as broader advocacy and technical assistance for increased investment in health. Nearly 90% of co-financing commitments in previous grant cycles have been fulfilled. For the current cycle, the Global Fund is working intensively with countries and partners to ensure co-financing commitments are delivered, despite the fiscal stresses and competing demands triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global Fund implements co-financing policies to increase domestic spending on health and reinforce country ownership. Co-financing of

Global Fund-supported programs increased by 44% in the 2017-2019 period with a further 36% increase already committed for the 2020-2022 period. In francophone countries, domestic financing of HIV, TB and malaria programs has increased by 37% on average across the last two funding cycles.

The Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference in 2019 was hosted by President Emmanuel Macron. An unprecedented level of funds was mobilized through extraordinary leadership from France. Several leaders from francophone Africa contributed to those efforts, announcing pledges worth US\$30 million.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, equitable future for all. We unite the world to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. It's working. We have saved 44 million lives. We won't stop until the job is finished.