

Morocco



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Morocco is a leading implementer of grants supported by the Global Fund partnership in the North Africa and Middle East region. Since its inception, the Global Fund has invested US\$77 million in Morocco to fight HIV and tuberculosis, and build resilient and sustainable systems for health.

Morocco has emerged as a success story in the region and has made significant progress in public health in recent years, including a sharp decline in maternal and infant mortality and new HIV infections. Advances against HIV and TB have been achieved with a combination of political commitment, strong collaboration with technical partners such as WHO and UNAIDS, and an active participation of civil society and communities living with the diseases. The response to HIV and TB are national health priorities. The National Strategic Plan for AIDS

2017-2021 and the National Strategic Plan for TB 2017-2021 provide a road map to build on progress, and remove barriers to accessing prevention and care for the most vulnerable.

Morocco has been a regional pioneer in prevention activities by providing AIDS education as well as outreach, counselling and testing services. It was also the first Arab country to introduce harm reduction programs for people who inject drugs.

Main results achieved by Global Fund-supported programs:



10,760

PEOPLE CURRENTLY ON ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY FOR HIV



35,900

NEW SMEAR-POSITIVE TB CASES DETECTED AND TREATED

HIV

HIV prevalence among the country's general population is low, and the number of new HIV infections declined by 37 percent between 2010 and 2016. However, it remains high among men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and female sex workers. These groups face stigma and discrimination in health care facilities. Two-thirds of new infections occur in these key populations. Morocco has introduced a human rights strategy on HIV to fight against discrimination.

Global Fund investments in Morocco have been used to expand the provision of care and prevention services among key populations, including the distribution of injecting kits and condoms, methadone substitution therapy and access to testing and antiretroviral therapy (ARV) for people who inject drugs.

Since 2012, Morocco has expanded HIV testing and counselling. Global Fund investments have contributed to a two-fold increase in the number of people living with HIV who receive ARVs between 2012 and 2016, from 5,301 to 10,760. Despite progress, HIV is still a "hidden" epidemic, as 40 percent of people living with HIV don't know their status.

With Global Fund support, the National Strategic Plan for AIDS 2017-2021 aims to cut new infections by 75 percent, expanding HIV prevention and risk reduction programs with a focus on sex workers and men who have sex with men. It also sets the goal of reducing HIV-related mortality by 60 percent, eliminating the transmission of HIV from mother to child, and ensuring that 90 percent of all people living with HIV know their status.

Tuberculosis

TB case detection has increased by 1.5 percent per year since 2009, and the treatment success rate is more than 85 percent among patients who are put on treatment. While the expansion of screening programs in the past decade has kept the TB burden largely stable, the low level of treatment adherence is contributing to the emerging problem of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). Detection and treatment of MDR-TB is a focus of Global Fund's contributions.

The National Strategic Plan for TB aims to reduce the number of TB deaths by 40 percent between 2015 and 2021. The plan also seeks to increase the TB case detection and treatment success rates through the strengthening of services, better coordination of care providers and the reinforcement of TB services for high risk groups and vulnerable populations.

Building Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health

Morocco is using Global Fund investments to address cross-cutting issues in its health system to improve the provision of HIV and TB care and other primary health care services, including health care for mothers and children and sexual and reproductive health programs. Global Fund-supported programs are also contributing to the training of medical staff and strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations.

An Inclusive Approach

Programs supported by the Global Fund have an impact beyond fighting diseases. In Morocco, Global Fund investments have given more visibility and decision-making to communities that are marginalized. Morocco's Country Coordinating Mechanism, the body that designs and oversees implementation of grants in the country, includes representatives of sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs. When health strategies are discussed, representatives of key populations sit at the same table as members from the Ministry of Health, international partners, civil society and academics. With government support, civil society organizations are responsible for raising awareness of HIV and providing prevention services among key populations. Civil society and the government work hand in hand in the HIV response.

EARLY TRANSITION PLANNING

Morocco was the first country in the region to receive Global Fund grants in 2003. Although it is not projected to transition out of Global Fund funding for another several years, the country is preparing early to ensure a sustainable response to the diseases. The country recently completed a transition readiness assessment, and is developing a multi-year plan to prepare for transition of HIV and TB control, including establishing a high-level finance committee to explore sources of additional funding, as well as health insurance benefits for people living with HIV. Morocco funds nearly 50 percent of the National HIV Program and 90 percent of the TB Program from its domestic budget. External funding represents 1.1 percent of the health budget in Morocco.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. The Global Fund's operating costs are approximately 2 percent of grants under management, reflecting an exceptionally high degree of efficiency. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

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