

STEP UP THE FIGHT

FOCUS ON DOMESTIC FINANCING FOR HEALTH



The Global Fund / David ODwyer

The Global Fund's target of raising at least US\$14 billion in its Sixth Replenishment seeks to spur domestic investment of US\$46 billion toward ending the three diseases and strengthening health systems through co-financing requirements, and technical assistance on health financing.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Since its creation the Global Fund partnership has made significant progress with 27 million lives saved. It has helped put 17.5 million people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV. In 2017, the Global Fund treated 5 million people with TB and distributed 197 million mosquito nets. So far, investments to end these three pandemics have yielded positive results, but remain insufficient. The Global Fund has set a replenishment target of at least US\$14 billion, which also aims to spur US\$46 billion in domestic investments to help the world get back on track to end HIV, TB & malaria, and accelerate progress towards SDG3 and universal health coverage.

THE CHALLENGE

There is an urgent need for global health partners to find new and non-traditional sources for funding. These efforts are essential to achieve the global target of ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics by 2030.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Encouraging and stimulating domestic investments in health is an essential component of the Global Fund's move toward sustainable health programs in all the countries where the partnership invests.

Those efforts to stimulate more investments from countries that implement Global Fund programs are bearing fruit. Many low- and middle-income countries are taking up more responsibility for financing the response to HIV, TB and malaria, as well as other diseases. In the spirit of shared responsibility and global solidarity with the international community, these countries are taking the lead and investing in sectors often dominated by foreign development investments.

The Global Fund's Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing Policy aims to support countries as they move toward fully domestically funded systems for health and responses to HIV, TB and malaria. In our 2017-2022 strategy, the Global Fund commits to work with all implementing countries to increase domestic resource mobilization for all health programs, with an emphasis on investing in programs that support key and vulnerable populations. Co-financing is a key element of this strategy.

The term co-financing reflects the partnership between the Global Fund and the country in contributing to the long-term sustainability of programs.

In many countries, the trajectory of increasing government investments in health was already in motion before the Global Fund's co-financing requirements. However, the Global Fund grants typically include an obligation on the recipient government to commit additional domestic resources equivalent to 15-30% of the allocated grant. This mechanism has proved successful in incentivizing increased domestic investment in health, spurring countries to commit an additional US\$8.9 billion to their health programs for 2017-2019. That represents a 46% increase in domestic financing over 2014-2016.



The Global Fund / Mia Collis

Once a sex worker and a person who injected drugs, Rehema Mpili has stopped using drugs, and counsels other people who inject drugs as a trained health worker.

The Global Fund supports training of health workers in Tanzania in order to provide care and support, and to prevent the spread of HIV among vulnerable populations.

SUPPORTING COUNTRY EFFORTS

The Global Fund supports countries to increase domestic investments in health. There is no one-size-fits-all approach and each solution is developed to best suit each country's unique context.

To help make the case for why governments should invest more in health, the Global Fund provides support and training for regional and country level evidence-based advocacy. For example, the Africa Union's African Leadership Meeting on Investing in Health under the leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame brought renewed high level political support for these goals. The Global Fund has also supported civil society engagement in the health financing discussions at national level and training to CSO and parliamentarians to enable them to better engage in these debates.

At the national level, the Global Fund has supported inclusive National Health Financing Dialogues – one recent example in Cote d'Ivoire culminated in a national summit at which the country's Prime Minister, Amadou Gon Coulibaly, committed to increase government investments in health by 15% per year for the next 5 years.

Countries have been adopting innovative approaches to realize these political commitments. In 1999, Zimbabwe established an AIDS Levy, which is a 3% tax on the income of all formally employed individuals and most companies in the country. The money raised by the fund has increased significantly since 2009, when the country's economy became more stable. Resources generated through the AIDS Levy jumped significantly from US\$5.7 million in 2009 to more than US\$37 million in 2017. Zimbabwe's National AIDS Council Board has indicated that at least 50% of total funds collected from the AIDS Levy would be spent on antiretroviral therapy. These resources, combined with investments by the Global Fund partnership and other bilateral partners, are playing a pivotal role in responding to HIV in the country. In India, Tata Trusts and the Global Fund have launched the India Health Fund, an innovative initiative to raise funds within India and invest the money to tackle key health challenges, starting with tuberculosis and malaria. These country-led innovative investments will be a key tool in securing sustainable national responses to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

STEP 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 such as stalled funding and growing drug resistance 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 systems for health that will enable the achievement of universal health coverage. It is time to step up the fight.

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.

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