

FOCUS ON

The Middle East Response



The Global Fund / Vincent Becker

The fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is more important than ever in a world increasingly affected by conflict, disasters and economic crises. The worst refugee crisis in recent times is affecting all parts of the world, particularly the Middle East – and as people move, so do diseases.

In conflict settings, preventable diseases like HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are not prioritized as health systems are overburdened and focus resources to provide basic health services or prepare for emerging health threats. In refugee situations, stopping diseases from spreading not only protects already weakened refugees from falling ill, but also frees up critical resources to treat other illnesses or provide other health services. Investing in global health strengthens global security and stability, making the world safer and more prosperous for us all.

Our Partnership

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership that brings together governments, civil society, communities affected by the diseases, the private sector, faith-based organizations and philanthropists to accelerate the end of AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics. **Since 2002, Global Fund-supported programs have saved more than 27 million lives.** To achieve more impact, the Global Fund adopts different approaches to investing and implementing in different countries and settings. The Global Fund partnership is putting a sharper focus on challenging operating environments – countries or regions that experience disease outbreaks, natural disasters, armed conflicts and/or weak governance.

The Middle East Response Initiative

Many countries in the Middle East are coping with the effects of conflict, humanitarian crises and large numbers of internally displaced people and refugees. To better respond to these challenges, the Global Fund launched a new initiative to increase efficiency and offer more flexibility to support the region in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria.

The Middle East Response Initiative was designed to provide essential HIV, TB and malaria services to key and vulnerable populations including refugees, internally displaced people, women, children and other populations in **Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, as well as to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.**

Because of conflict, these countries face constantly shifting needs, limited capacity and severe constraints to providing essential services. In Yemen, Iraq and Syria, most of the health facilities have been destroyed, and the health infrastructure in countries hosting displaced populations is overstretched.

More flexible investments with a more focused scope will allow implementing partners to adjust their programs as the country context changes, thus reaching key and vulnerable populations with quality services and more effective interventions.



Tomorrow can be different

Dalal Mohammad was coughing a long time before a health worker at Azraq refugee camp noticed and arranged for testing in a mobile health clinic that came by every week. Dalal was diagnosed with tuberculosis. She went on treatment immediately, was closely monitored, and completed it in six months. She feels stronger now. Her dark, warm eyes have seen a lot, and her wrinkles run deep. After her neighborhood in Syria suffered the depredations of conflict, she and her husband decided it was time to flee. Two of her daughters had already left with their husbands to go to Jordan. But Dalal hesitated, because of her third daughter, more recently married and living in Syria.

Every day, Dalal repeats to herself words on the virtue of patience from her mother, who died at age 50 when Dalal was 16. "Tomorrow can be different." She knows she overcame a disease that has killed many others, but she still is not sure where her future lies. She has brothers in Turkey and in Jordan and one of her sons is about to get married. She wants to be able to see her 12 grandchildren as much as possible. When will she see her daughter again? Tears flood Dalal's eyes, and she says, "I don't know."

Middle East Response

The Global Fund's commitment to the fight against the three diseases in the Middle East has been ongoing through national grants, with support for HIV and TB programs in Syria and Palestine; HIV, TB and malaria programs in Yemen; and TB programs in Iraq. As the conflict in Syria led to significant population movements across the region, an Emergency Fund grant provided essential TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

The Middle East Response Initiative, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), started in January 2017 and brought together the Global Fund's investments in the countries mentioned above under a consolidated grant management platform based in Amman, Jordan. The idea of combining the programs

was to bring greater value for money, reach more vulnerable populations, and support stronger regional partnerships that can deliver health services in conflict zones and hard-to-reach areas.

The initial Middle East Response grant supported TB, HIV and malaria interventions in Syria, Yemen, Jordan and Lebanon, for a total signed amount of US\$ 32 million for a two-year period that ended in December 2018. The grant also included HIV and TB services to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Programs in Iraq were managed as a standalone emergency TB grant to avoid any interruption of services and ensure continuity of critical services that were covered under previous grants.

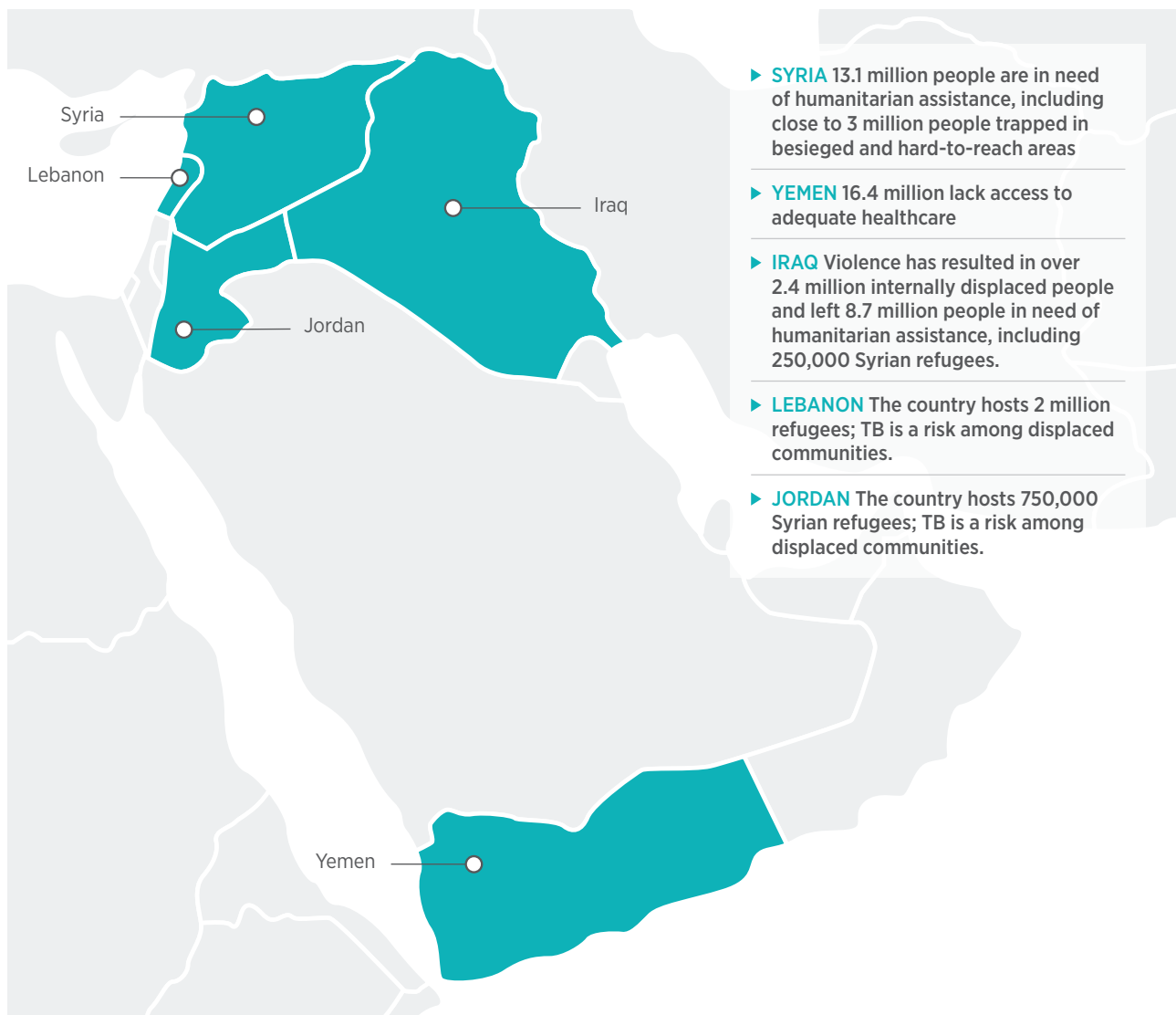
A new Middle East Response grant for US\$ 36 million will continue to support activities in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. The

grant, which will be implemented through December 2021, will also address vulnerable populations in Lebanon, and will focus on providing TB diagnosis and treatment services in Iraq. The grant focuses on:

- ▶ Ensuring continuity of services even in times of conflict or disruption, and prioritization of testing, treatment and prevention;
- ▶ Providing support to key and vulnerable populations in Yemen and Syria, including internally displaced people and hard-to-reach areas
- ▶ Providing support to refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, with a focus on regions with a high proportion of people in need.

The targeted outcomes of the grant include increasing the number of people living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy from 2,400 in 2018 to 5,282 in 2021; reaching

Middle East Response: Countries with Active Grants



43,550 people with HIV testing services; distributing 1,800,000 long-lasting insecticidal nets to at-risk populations through mass campaigns in 2019; reaching and providing treatment to 70,515 notified cases of all forms of TB, including new and relapse cases, as well as cases that are bacteriologically and clinically diagnosed by 2021; and diagnosing and support to treat 786 multi-drug resistant TB cases by end of 2021.

In Iraq, activities covered by the grant include TB screening through early detection of TB cases and treatment support, particularly among internally displaced people and the 250,000 Syrian refugees living in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. The grant also supports the TB services in 14 governorates in provision of basic screening and laboratory-based diagnosis through mobile medical teams.

A Global Commitment

The Global Fund partnership has saved 27 million lives since 2002. Despite this remarkable progress, we face serious threats. In October of 2019, France will host the next Global Fund replenishment conference to raise new funds and mobilize partners toward ending AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030 in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The current programs of the Middle East Response aim at providing essential services. Additional funding is needed to close gaps in the rebuilding of health infrastructure, support human resources, improve supply chain management of health products, the development of information systems and data quality and the expansion of programs to include more services for returnees and areas no longer in conflict.



To prevent the spread of tuberculosis, when a patient is diagnosed with the disease health workers conduct screening among the community. Contact testing often includes family members, like the father and mother of a positive pulmonary TB patient shown in this picture. At the TB clinic in Halba, North Lebanon, testing is done by using a Tuberculin Skin Test, which is administered by injecting.

The Global Fund / Sarah Hobbak

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, TB 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.

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