

Portugal and the Global Fund

A Smart Investment

In 2000, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria appeared to be unstoppable. In many countries, AIDS devastated an entire generation, leaving countless orphans and shattered communities. Malaria killed young children and pregnant women unable to protect themselves from mosquitoes or access lifesaving medicine. Tuberculosis unfairly afflicted the poor, as it had for millennia.

The world fought back. Portugal joined hands with other governments, the private sector, civil society and people affected by the diseases to form the Global Fund, which pooled the world's resources to invest strategically in programs to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics. Nearly two decades later, Portugal's smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save more than 27 million lives.



27
MILLION

LIVES SAVED
FROM AIDS, MALARIA
AND TB



17.5
MILLION

PEOPLE ON
ANTIRETROVIRAL
THERAPY FOR HIV



5
MILLION

PEOPLE TESTED
AND TREATED FOR
TUBERCULOSIS



197
MILLION

MOSQUITO NETS DISTRIBUTED
TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES FROM MALARIA

Lives saved are cumulative since 2002. All other results were achieved in 2017 in countries where the Global Fund invests.

Saving Lives, Transforming Livelihoods

With cumulative contributions totaling US\$15.8 million as of February 2019, Portugal has been an important supporter of the Global Fund since the inception.

The Global Fund's institutional relationship with Portugal is anchored in the Camões Institute for Cooperation and Languages (Camões I.P.), which has been investing in the Global Fund since 2003 and incrementally increased the contributions until the Second Replenishment, when Portugal got severely hit by a financial and economic crisis. Even during the years of austerity measures, Portugal has managed to make ad-hoc small contributions to the Global Fund. In 2018, the partnership between Portugal and the Global Fund further expanded to the Ministry of Health, which led to additional financial contributions from the country, in complement of the continuously increasing contributions from the Camões Institute. Portugal's tireless efforts to return as a donor to the Global Fund are a testimony to its strong commitment to global health and the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.

In addition to the financial contribution to the Global Fund, Portugal has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Fund in support of technical assistance to Global Fund grants in Lusophone countries where Portuguese-speaking health experts are in severe shortage. Portugal is represented on the Global Fund's Board, thereby dynamically contributing to shaping the Global Fund governance policies.

The Global Fund investments in Lusophone countries as of December 2018 amount to US\$1.4 billion, and have saved 935,000 lives, put almost 1.3 million people on antiretroviral therapy, treated nearly 600,000 TB cases, and distributed over 56 million mosquito nets.

Priority Areas of Partnership

Resilient, Sustainable Systems for Health: Robust systems for health are not only essential to ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics, but they yield broader outcomes, delivering health care in a sustainable, equitable and effective way. Twenty-seven percent of the Global Fund's investments are dedicated to addressing areas that are critical for stronger health systems, including training for community health workers, laboratories, data management and supply chains.

Investing in Challenging Operating Environments:

Challenging operating environments (COEs) are critical to the Global Fund mission and objectives. Approximately one-third of the global burden of the three diseases and more than one-fourth of the 2017-2019 Global Fund allocations are in COEs. Programmatic challenges in COEs require differentiated approaches, including innovative partnerships, to increase health impact.

Global Fund investments in COEs aim to increase coverage of HIV, TB and malaria preventive and therapeutic services, to reach key and most vulnerable populations, and to save lives even in fragile situations. The investments also aim to build sustainability and resilience through stronger community health systems, while addressing gender and human rights-related barriers to health services. A COE policy was approved by the Board in 2016 to systematize the Global Fund's approach in COEs and to provide overall guidance on future Global Fund engagement in these contexts.

Amongst Portugal's focus countries, Guinea-Bissau has been classified as one of the Global Funds' 25 COE countries for 2017-2019.

Harm Reduction for People Who Inject Drugs: In many parts of the world, people who inject drugs are denied access to sterile injecting equipment and are often forced to share and reuse needles and syringes, placing them and their sex partners at significant risk of HIV infection. Preventing HIV and other harms among people who inject drugs – and providing them with effective, appropriate, and voluntary treatment – are essential components of national HIV responses, yet often present major challenges.

The Global Fund is committed to rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to delivery of health services, including harm reduction services. In many lower-middle-income countries, the Global Fund has been crucial to initiating, scaling-up and sustaining harm reduction programs. The Global Fund continues to support countries in both delivering these programs and helping governments to remove structural barriers to HIV prevention, including removing criminalization of marginalized populations.

The Global Fund is the main donor for harm reduction globally, contributing two-thirds of all donor funding in lower-middle-income countries. On a national scale, Portugal features amongst the leading countries in terms of harm reduction and decriminalization of drug use. It is no coincidence Portugal was chosen as a host for the 2019 edition of the Harm Reduction International Conference.

Stepping Up the Fight

Ending the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria by 2030 is within reach, but not yet firmly in our grasp. But after years of remarkable progress, new threats 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 health systems. It is time to step up the fight to end the epidemics by 2030.

It's All Connected

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for an integrated approach to address today's development challenges. The Global Fund, a partnership of governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, is a successful model for the new SDGs era of shared responsibility and mutual accountability to achieve global goals.

The Global Fund's mission to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics is aligned with Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing. But achieving health and well-being cannot be separated from ending poverty (Goal 1) and hunger (Goal 2), ensuring education (Goal 4) and ending the gender discrimination that fuels the diseases, especially HIV (Goal 5).



Carolina Livas Tembe, 37 years old, is an APE (Agente Polivalente Elemental) in a rural village in Matola, Maputo Province, Mozambique. She moves from house to house checking on the general health of families who live very far from the nearest health facility. During the visit, Carolina will cover topics of malaria, HIV and general health with the family. She will also prescribe basic medicine and do malaria testing with the rapid test kits.

The Global Fund / Scherbrucker

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century organization 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. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

April 2019
theglobalfund.org