

# Italy 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 life-saving medicine. Tuberculosis unfairly afflicted the poor, as it had for millennia.

The world fought back. Italy had an important part and voice in this response. It joined hands with other governments, 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.



20  
MILLION

LIVES SAVED THROUGH  
THE GLOBAL FUND  
PARTNERSHIP



10  
MILLION

PEOPLE ON  
ANTIRETROVIRAL  
THERAPY FOR HIV



16.6  
MILLION

PEOPLE HAVE  
RECEIVED  
TB TREATMENT



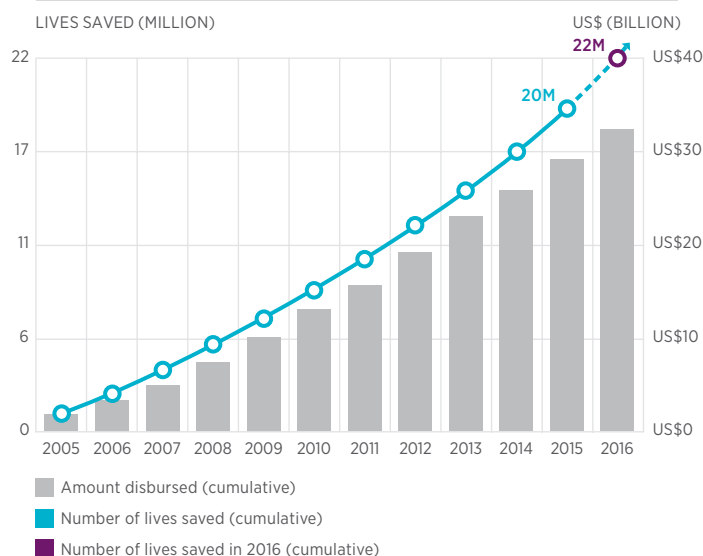
713  
MILLION

MOSQUITO NETS  
DISTRIBUTED BY  
PROGRAMS FOR MALARIA

## Saving Lives, Transforming Livelihoods

Fifteen years later, Italy's smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save more than 20 million lives. With contributions totaling more than 1 billion euros as of December 2016, Italy is the **ninth-largest public donor** to the Global Fund partnership. At the Global Fund's Fifth Replenishment funding conference in September 2016, Italy pledged 140 million euros, including technical assistance for the three-year period beginning in 2017, an increase of 40 percent over Italy's last contribution. The Italian government is represented on the Global Fund's Board, where it has helped shape major policies, including investing in complex or challenging environments, building resilient and sustainable systems for health to address threats to global health security and advancing gender equity. Italy and the Global Fund partnership have forced HIV, tuberculosis and malaria into retreat, saving lives and creating stronger communities.

### NUMBER OF LIVES SAVED THROUGH GLOBAL FUND-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS



## A 21st-Century Partnership

The Global Fund partnership model is designed to promote innovative solutions to global health challenges. Countries take the lead in determining where and how to best fight diseases. Collectively, the Global Fund harnesses the best possible experience, insights and innovation in the public and private sectors to respond to diseases and build resilient and sustainable systems for health. This approach is saving lives and transforming communities.

### OUR MODEL

#### 5. OVERSIGHT IN ACTION

Ongoing financing depends upon performance and proven results. Local Fund Agents in each country monitor implementation of grants. The Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General conducts audits and investigations.

#### 4. WE EVALUATE

An independent panel of experts reviews the plan to determine if it will achieve results. The panel may request changes to the plan. Once finalized, it goes to the Board for approval.

#### 1. WE RAISE THE MONEY

The Global Fund raises and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. The money comes 95 percent from donor governments and 5 percent from the private sector and foundations.

#### 2. COUNTRIES MAKE INVESTMENT DECISIONS

A Country Coordinating Mechanism made up of representatives of people whose lives are affected by the three diseases, medical experts, government and civil society meets and develops a plan to fight the diseases in their community.

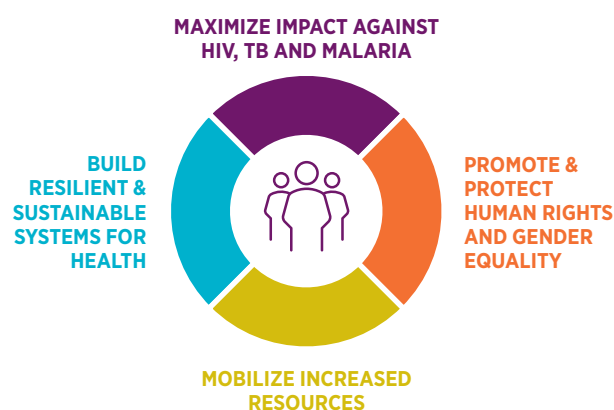
#### 3. LOCAL EXPERTS IMPLEMENT

Countries take the lead in determining where and how best to fight diseases. Local experts and partners use grant money to deliver programs.

## Priority Areas of the Partnership

Programs supported by the Global Fund, Italy and other partners will save 14 million lives in the three-year period beginning in 2017, bringing the total number of lives saved by the Global Fund partnership to 36 million by the end of 2019. Those programs will also avert up to 194 million new infections or cases of HIV, TB and malaria. Global Fund support will further catalyze US\$35 billion in domestic finance for health and drive US\$230 billion in economic gains.

The Global Fund has rolled out a new strategy for 2017-2022 with a bold agenda to consolidate and accelerate gains made in the fight against the three diseases in the last two decades. The strategy is anchored by four strategic objectives:



## HIV

Between 2000 and 2015, the number of new HIV infections declined by 37 percent in countries supported by the Global Fund. Since the peak of the crisis in 2005, the number of deaths caused by AIDS has declined by 45 percent in countries where the Global Fund invests.



In the Middle East, where many countries are coping with the effects of war, humanitarian crises and large numbers of internally displaced people and refugees, a Global Fund regional grant is providing TB, HIV and malaria services in Syria, Yemen, Jordan and Lebanon.

## Tuberculosis

The number of deaths from TB declined 31 percent between 2000 and 2015 in countries where the Global Fund invests. The number of TB cases in countries where the Global Fund invests went down by 6.1 percent between 2005 and 2015. Deaths from TB in 2015 would have been more than three times higher in the absence of interventions like the ones supported by the Global Fund partnership.

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A health extension worker visits Agnes Nzomo and her children – who are TB survivors – at their home in Kibera, one of Africa's largest slums. Agnes, a pre-school teacher, was the first in the family to be diagnosed with TB. A health extension worker, who is attached to a local clinic run by Amref Health Africa in Kenya and supported by the Global Fund partnership, made prompt arrangements for the rest of the family – the husband and four boys – to be tested for the disease. Three of the boys returned a positive test. With support from the clinic, Agnes and her boys were put on free TB medication and cured of the disease.

## Malaria

Cases of malaria treated through Global Fund-supported programs rose 13 percent in 2015, to hit a cumulative total of 626 million by mid-2016. The rate of death for children under the age of 5, in 81 malaria-endemic countries supported by Global Fund grants, went down by more than one-third between 2003 and 2015. The decline was faster in countries where the malaria-related share of deaths in children under 5 was higher. Malaria control contributed to that progress, with particularly big gains in countries including Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda and Ethiopia.

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First responders meet at Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust, a nongovernmental organization whose counsellors see rape survivors and support them through medical steps, including preventative treatment for HIV. The initiative is supported by the Global Fund partnership.

## Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health

Building resilient and sustainable systems for health is essential for making progress against HIV, TB and malaria, improving health care for all, and helping countries prepare for emerging global health security threats. Weak systems for health can be costly – and fatal – for nations, as the 2015 Ebola outbreak showed.

The core mission of the Global Fund – to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics – can only be achieved by building stronger systems for health through improved supply chains and information management, training for health workers, and more robust community systems.



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Tibre Desu is one of 38,000 female health extension workers trained by the government of Ethiopia, with support from the Global Fund, to bring basic health care closer to the people. She and her fellow health extension workers walk long distances to bring access to health care to the homes of underserved rural communities.

## Reaching People for Better Health, Wherever They Go

When communities are hit by conflict, disaster or outbreaks of disease, they often migrate in search of assistance or safety. To meet the health needs of vulnerable populations, including those forced to flee their homes and cross national borders, the Global Fund is increasing its flexibility, speed of response, and partnerships with emergency responders in challenging operating environments. With the support of Italy and other partners, the Global Fund and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, are working together in Rwanda to address health needs for Burundian refugees. Similarly, in Eastern Africa, where conflicts and political instability forced many families to flee and seek asylum in neighboring countries, the Global Fund and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional bloc are supporting refugee populations in 20 refugee camps. Programs supported by the Global Fund, Italy and other partners are also providing life-saving health services in the Middle East, with investments totalling US\$63 million between 2014-2018 that focus on refugees and internally displaced people and people in hard-to-reach areas from Syria, Yemen, Jordan and Lebanon. Preventing and quickly treating people for infectious diseases such as TB, HIV and malaria strengthens global health security, particularly in regions such as Europe.



## Breaking Down Barriers to Health

To end epidemics, we must address gender inequality. The Global Fund's new strategy takes a strong stand on strengthening the response to HIV, TB and malaria by supporting programs that address gender inequalities and gender-related risks and barriers that prevent people from accessing health services. It supports the development and implementation of gender-responsive national health strategies; the improvement of data systems to gather and analyze sex-and-age-disaggregated data; and the identification of vulnerable or at-risk populations.

## It's All Connected

A person-centered approach is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs state that the fabric of humanity is made of diverse yet interconnected threads. A child fleeing Syria or Somalia needs food, education, shelter, health. More important, that child and her family and community need investment in systems that provide elements of basic human dignity, and that help stabilize a society so that fewer people need to flee in the first place. To serve the person, we must make smart long-term investments in health and support efforts in connected disciplines. We have to invest in the long term, for more holistic gains.



## Every Euro Counts

The Global Fund ensures that funds are used to achieve the greatest possible impact for people most in need. The Global Fund's risk management practices are embedded in all grants with a zero tolerance for corruption and misuse of funding. By 2016, the Global Fund had achieved three-year savings worth more than US\$600 million through a more effective pooled procurement mechanism, by working with partners and negotiating directly with manufacturers. The Global Fund's co-financing requirement is an effective way to work with governments to stimulate domestic investments in health. Countries have committed more than US\$6 billion to their health programs for 2015-2017 compared with spending in 2012-2014, evidence of a growing commitment to investing in global health.

## 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.