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. Denmark has been a strong supporting partner in this response, joining with other governments, the private sector, civil society and people affected by the diseases to form the Global Fund.

Seventeen years later, Denmark's smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have helped save more than 27 million lives.

With contributions totalling more than US$ 371.1 million as of April 2019, Denmark is the 14th largest public donor to the Global Fund.

In addition to its funding, Denmark takes part in the governance of the Global Fund as part of the Point Seven Constituency, with Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Ireland and Luxembourg. It held the constituency’s seat on the Global Fund Board from April 2015 to June 2017. The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in Geneva manages the relationship with the Global Fund.

Priority Areas of Partnership

Support to the Global Fund is aligned to “The World 2030”, Denmark’s strategy for development policy and humanitarian action. The strategy aims to place Denmark at the forefront of international efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the fight against HIV and AIDS. The strategy underlines that Denmark's overarching aim in international development cooperation is to fight poverty and to enhance sustainable growth and development, economic freedom, peace, stability, equality and rules-based international order.

The right to health for all is a cornerstone of Denmark’s development policy, and the Global Fund is a key partner for Denmark. It is important for Denmark that all efforts lead to a strengthening of national health systems, an increased equality, and are founded on the human rights-based approach.

Lives saved are cumulative since 2002. All other results were achieved in 2017 in countries where the Global Fund invests.
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Partners like Denmark are strong advocates for the Global Fund’s approach of addressing multiple sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV needs, and more broadly, for linking reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health interventions with HIV, TB and malaria programs.

Investing in Gender Equality, Key Populations and Human Rights: Too often, people most affected by diseases are the same people who don’t have access to health care. Factors such as stigma, discrimination and criminalization are among the barriers that prevent them from accessing health services. The Global Fund is committed to supporting programs aimed at overcoming human rights barriers so that everyone can access the health services they need. The best way to get this right is to ensure that key populations have a role and voice in the design, implementation and monitoring of health services, as well as in policy decisions that affect them.

Resilient and Strong Health Systems: Robust systems for health are essential to ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics, and delivering health care in a sustainable, equitable and effective way. They also are essential for universal health coverage and global health security. Global Fund invest in primary health care: linking reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions with HIV, TB and malaria programs. The Global Fund dedicates 27% of investments to building stronger health systems, including training for community health workers, laboratories, data and supply chain management. With about US$1 billion per year invested in strengthening health systems, the Global Fund is the largest provider of grants to build health systems among the multilateral institutions. Robust health systems that focus on prevention, detection and treatment are also a primary line of defence against outbreaks, helping countries prepare for emerging threats to regional and global health security.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious, global and interconnected. 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). Progress in each of these foundational goals accelerates impact in all of the others. To prevent millions of avoidable deaths each year from both infectious and non-communicable disease, the Global Fund also contributes to the goal of universal health coverage. Achieving the SDGs requires an integrated approach between many partners – from international agencies to national ministries and local community groups.

Stepping Up the Fight

Change the whole box with : With all the breathtaking progress in recent years, we have the end of the epidemics within our reach, but not yet firmly in our grasp. The world is falling off the track to end these diseases. Wavering political commitment, shortfalls in funding, entrenched (and in some cases, worsening) gender inequalities and human rights related barriers to access to health services and increasing insecticide and drug resistance have slowed progress and enabled the diseases to gain ground. The human toll is unacceptable. 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 more resilient health systems. We can further yield a return on investment of 1.19 with every dollar invested resulting in US$19 in health gains and economic returns.

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.

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