

Zenysis Technologies



The Global Fund / John Rae

The challenge

There has never been more data available to help countries deliver health care to their citizens. However, this data is not always timely, good quality and is often scattered across a number of health information systems, tools and data sources that don't talk to each other. It is also not available to decision-makers in an accessible, actionable format. The fragmentation makes it difficult for them to see a clear picture of health system performance and is a major barrier to using data to inform policy and deliver efficient and equitable health services.

The partnership

Zenysis is a big data and artificial intelligence startup that helps countries harness their entire data ecosystem to improve health programs and save lives.

With engineers from organizations like Google, Amazon and NASA, Zenysis has built a platform that can integrate data from any number of fragmented systems into a single unified view. This gives decision-makers a nearly real-time view of their health programs to improve the decisions they make every day. The user-friendly platform is flexible and scalable, and it can be quickly adapted to each country's specific systems and analytical needs.

Ministry monitoring and evaluation specialists have used the Zenysis platform to revolutionize the way they report on the performance of Global Fund-supported programs. Instead of calculating the national performance of these programs once a year, countries can now see the performance of their programs at the site level on a monthly basis across a number of information streams – health surveillance, supply chain and financial investments — and even at a beneficiary level. Not only can these analysts do more, they can do it faster and more efficiently than ever. In Liberia, where the Zenysis platform has been operational since early 2018, analysis that would previously take several people 14 days to

compile can now be done by a single person in minutes.

Importantly, the platform allows health specialists to combine data from multiple systems for advanced analysis for the first time. This capability helps decision-makers and analysts uncover powerful insights they can use to transform the performance of Global Fund-supported programs.

The Global Fund identifies countries and programs that can benefit most from this innovative technology. It contributes vital technical expertise that helps maximize the benefits, and is working with Zenysis in several countries to bring this impactful technology to scale.



The Global Fund / Vincent Becker

In a rural village outside Musanze, Rwanda, a community health worker examines a child with fever symptoms. The child is suspected to have malaria.

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A lady with her mosquito net in her home in a rural village in Ethiopia.

Leora Casey

Key Populations Manager,
Networking HIV & AIDS Community
of Southern Africa (NACOSA)

“In public health programming we need to be a lot smarter in the way we use data in order to make the money go further and ensure that we reach the communities we are trying to reach with the services they require at the right time. NACOSA previously used a spreadsheet to track the number of sex workers reached in South Africa and it became very difficult to accurately track the types of services received and the profiles of the sex workers that we reached. With the Zenysis data platform we are now able to look at the unique number of sex workers reached and the exact services provided. We are able to analyse the data down to a hotspot level to be able to tailor programmatic interventions to better reach the sex workers at the right times. Additionally, we have been able to merge programmatic and finance data, which has helped us look at the cost-effectiveness of the program and identify problems.”

Q&A with Jonathan Stambolis, Co-Founder & CEO, Zenysis

1 Why did Zenysis decide to partner with the Global Fund?

Since its creation in 2002, Global Fund-supported programs have saved an estimated 27 million lives from HIV, TB and malaria. Information technology was only a small part of that success story, but not anymore.

In the next phase of the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, every aspect of the Global Fund's work must be data-driven and smarter than ever. Our mission at Zenysis is to ensure that Global Fund-supported programs have access to the data and software they need to deliver programs as efficiently and equitably as possible, make every dollar go further and ensure no one is left behind.

2 What has the partnership between the Global Fund and Zenysis achieved to date?

We signed our three-year strategic partnership agreement with the Global Fund in April 2018. Our goal was to reach three Global Fund-supported countries in the first year. Instead, we reached four countries in nine months. Today, we are working with national institutions that are responsible for the health care of 1.8 billion people.

These institutions have used our software to integrate billions of data points from their fragmented information systems and create a high-resolution view of their health system for the first time. It is now easier than ever for these institutions to make smarter, data-driven decisions that improve programs and save lives.

3 What are some of the lessons learned?

While big data and artificial intelligence are powerful forces for positive change, technology is not enough. Health systems still rely heavily on people to translate insights into action, so it is essential that innovators give equal attention to the "data use challenge." This is a complex problem that no one organization can solve on its own. So, while these technologies can be game-changing in many ways, there's one thing they don't change and that is the importance of partnerships.

4 Do you have plans to expand to other countries?

Yes. Zenysis is supporting Global Fund programs in nine countries and expects to expand to four additional countries by the end of 2019.

5 If you had to choose one "success story" which would it be?

We are very proud of the work we have done with NACOSA in South Africa, which delivers a range of HIV prevention programs to key populations, including sex workers. NACOSA used our platform to integrate fragmented program and finance data from more than 30 sources to build a complete overview of its sex worker program for the first time.

With this data integrated into our platform, NACOSA was able to analyze program performance at the provincial, district and site levels, and assess how effectively its program was serving more than 200,000 sex workers individually. The result was actionable insights NACOSA used to make significant program changes that will help ensure that greater numbers of HIV-negative sex workers in South Africa stay negative.

Given that South Africa accounts for approximately one-fifth of the total number of people living with HIV, this is not only a win for South Africa but also for the global fight against AIDS.



The Global Fund / Vincent Becker

A community health worker explains the use of a condom to a group of women in a rural community outside Durban, South Africa. Sex work is common in the area, which is contributing to high prevalence rates of HIV.



Community health workers in Rwanda work closely with local health authorities, for example by helping identify TB and malaria cases in their villages, and bringing them for consultation to the nearest health center. Here, two female community health workers do administrative work at Muhoza Health Center in Musanza.

With Global Fund support, by 2019 more than 58,000 community health workers in Rwanda have been trained and deployed to provide health care in their communities. Their work has been fundamental in the dramatic progress the country has made over the last 25 years.

In 2018 Zenysis worked with the Rwanda Biomedical Center's malaria division to triangulate data from three distinct systems to look at the medicines consumed, the case fatality rate for malaria, as well as the raw number of malaria cases reported at both the community and facility levels. Previously, any analysis would require exporting data from the three sources separately, harmonizing different data elements and visualizing the data using a third-party tool, all of which present major obstacles for efficient and effective data use. With the support of Zenysis technology, this type of granular and integrated analysis is available to the malaria division on demand.

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. The Global Fund is calling on the private sector to mobilize at least US\$1 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.