GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Outbreaks are inevitable.
But epidemics are preventable.
Investing in the Global Fund helps keep us all safe.

THE GLOBAL FUND

The Global Fund/Nichole Sobecki/VII

FOUR KEY PHASES MARK THE SPREAD OF AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

See how the Global Fund is able to act rapidly to help countries respond to new and emerging health threats.

PHASE 1: INDEX CASE

A new or re-emerging pathogen is identified – the earliest warning that an outbreak might be emerging.

The Global Fund invests US$2 billion a year to strengthen health systems. These investments help reinforce disease surveillance systems, which are critical to rapidly detect, report and respond to new health threats.

These systems depend on well-trained health workers. Global Fund investments have helped train thousands of front-line community health workers and health professionals, including nurses, laboratory technicians and doctors – many of whom have received specialized training to recognize and report initial outbreak signals, and to care for affected community members during health emergencies.

US$2b
Invested a year in health systems

70,000+
Community health workers trained

68,000+
Health professionals trained

In 34 countries

PHASE 2: LOCALIZED OUTBREAK

A localized outbreak happens when the disease spreads within a limited geographical area.

Outbreak detection depends on effective early warning surveillance. The “7-1-7” performance measure sets targets: seven days to detect a suspected outbreak, one day to notify public health authorities, and seven days to initiate an appropriate response.

This is a critical window. Timely tracking and reporting of information in real time is vital.

The Global Fund invests in digital data and surveillance tools to support health workers in low- and middle-income countries to rapidly track and report health threats.

US$150m
Invested a year in digital data systems

US$70m
Invested in digital surveillance tools

PHASE 3: EPIDEMIC

When a disease spreads beyond a limited geographical area with a rise in infections, the outbreak is now an epidemic. Epidemics overwhelm local health systems and can have severe consequences.

Equipped and functioning laboratory systems detect new infections and outbreaks early. With quality-assured laboratories, test results are more accurate, and medical decisions can be made more quickly.

The Global Fund is investing in strengthening laboratories and multi-disease diagnostics capacities across multiple countries, including through biosafety upgrades to help detect and manage dangerous diseases such as Ebola and mpox.

>US$400m
Will be invested in laboratory strengthening and multi-disease diagnostics between 2024 and 2027

In 90 countries

PHASE 4: PANDEMIC

A pandemic is the worst-case scenario – when a disease spreads across multiple countries and continents, affecting large populations around the globe.

In a volatile and unpredictable world, the Global Fund’s agility and responsiveness saves lives.

The Global Fund provides flexible emergency funding and adapts existing grants to help countries respond quickly to urgent health needs. This agility enabled the Global Fund to rapidly support many countries to manage their pandemic response during COVID-19 and, where possible, avoid worst-case scenarios.

US$5b
Emergency funding mobilized during COVID-19

The Global Fund deployed more than **US$150m** in emergency funding from 2014 to 2024

Global Fund investments in health systems and disease surveillance in more than **100 countries** help to detect, track and contain new outbreaks around the world.

PHASE 1: ZAMBIA
Community Health Volunteers Provide the First Line of Defense Against Disease

The Global Fund, in partnership with Zambia's Ministry of Health, is investing US$21 million to train 11,600 community health volunteers across the country. By participating in community disease surveillance, these health volunteers play a critical, front-line role in identifying outbreaks, especially in remote and hard-to-reach communities.

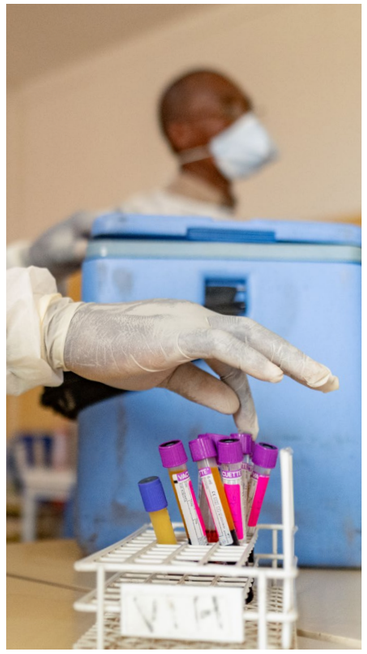
In January 2023, a community health volunteer in Zambia's Chililabombwe District swiftly identified a cluster of children with fever and rash – early signs of measles. By promptly reporting the cases to health authorities, a rapid investigation, community sensitization and enhanced surveillance activities were triggered. Early action not only contained the spread of measles, but also prepared communities to prevent future outbreaks.

PHASE 2: SENEGAL
Bolstering Early Warning Disease Detection Across West Africa

In October 2022, when scores of infants were admitted to hospital in Senegal struggling to breathe, health workers couldn't explain what was happening. This is when the country's Sentinel Syndromic Surveillance System (the 4S Network) kicked into gear.

Clinicians in 38 health facilities designated as sentinel sites across Senegal relayed real-time surveillance data through a digital platform, alerting decision-makers and response teams. Samples were also sent to Institut Pasteur Dakar, Senegal's national reference laboratory. Within 24 hours, scientists deduced that the illness was respiratory syncytial virus-B (RSV-B), and officials responded immediately, limiting the number of infants in intensive care and saving lives.

In addition to the extensive 4S Network in Senegal, the Global Fund is working with partners to establish similar systems in countries across the region: Benin, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Togo.



Above: The Global Fund/Jason Mulikita, below: The Global Fund/Sylvain Cherkaoui/Panos

PHASE 3: UKRAINE
Containing Drug-Resistant TB Despite War

Even before the full-scale war began in February 2022, Ukraine had a high TB burden, including one of the highest rates of drug-resistant TB in Europe.

The war has undone years of progress in TB care and prevention, likely leading to increased transmission, rising drug resistance and higher mortality — not only within the country, but also potentially across Europe and beyond. The World Health Organization estimated that TB incidence in Ukraine increased by 27% in 2022 compared to pre-war levels.

In response, the Global Fund is working with partners to adapt services to prevent the spread of TB. These efforts include supporting laboratory infrastructure, providing mobile medicine delivery, and supporting community-based screening to connect people to TB services.

PHASE 4: THE PHILIPPINES
Fighting Back Against COVID-19

The Philippines was severely impacted by COVID-19, enduring the world's longest lockdown. As in many countries, health facilities were overwhelmed, oxygen supplies dwindled and families mourned the loss of tens of thousands of loved ones.

Through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism, the Global Fund invested US$65.8 million in the country to combat COVID-19 and strengthen health systems to protect against future pandemics.

This included training a national network of over 14,600 health workers to quickly detect, report and respond to health threats, and strengthening data systems and laboratory networks to improve diagnostics and outbreak detection. Today, the Philippines is better equipped to face future health threats.

Above: The Global Fund/Oleksandr Rupeta/VII, below: The Global Fund/Vincent Becker

With smart investment today, we can stop tomorrow's pandemics before they start.

Join us – be part of building a healthier, safer world for everyone, everywhere.

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See how the Global Fund's work is reinforcing global health security.
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