An introduction to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

What is the Global Fund?

In 2002, following the introduction of the MDGs, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established as the principal international financing institution to accelerate the end of these three epidemics in line with MDG 6.

Two key principles underlying the Fund are partnership and country ownership. It has a unique organisational structure, operating as a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and the people affected by the diseases. Rather than implementing programmes, it raises and invests money to support programmes run by local experts in the communities most in need. Countries take the lead in how best to fight the diseases and work with international partners.

The Fund's Board also encourages the participation of all actors, with equal representation from donors and implementing countries, as well as NGOs, communities affected, private sector and foundations.

How does the Global Fund work?

Central to the Fund's commitment to country ownership are Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs). CCMs are partnerships consisting of representatives from the public and private sectors, including governments, specialist agencies, NGOs, private businesses and people affected by the diseases. They draw on the collective skills, knowledge and experience of a country, helping to identify and address challenges that are unique to local social and economic circumstances. The inclusive makeup of the partnership means that those affected by TB, HIV and malaria are able to contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of Global Fund-funded projects.

The Fund's model ensures that domestic governments increase resources for healthcare as they must contribute towards the cost of Global Fund–funded programmes, which further enhances their ownership of the response to the three diseases. The level of domestic financing required increases as a country's income increases.

The amount of funding available for each country is based on how much money is raised through the Global Fund replenishment process. Using the total amount of funding pledged, the Global Fund determines the amount of resources expected to be available over the three-year period. The last replenishment took place in 2013, with a replenishment scheduled to take place this year.

What has the Global Fund achieved?

Lives saved and people treated
The Global Fund has made tremendous impact against the three diseases, providing compelling evidence that its dynamic partnership model is one of the most effective ways to deliver results in global health.

The Global Fund’s investments have saved 17 million lives (more than 2 million every year since its creation in 2002) and resulted in a one-third decline in deaths from the three diseases in countries where it invests – doing its part to work towards the Millennium Development Goals’ target to halt and reverse the spread of the diseases by 2015.

The Fund has put 8.1 million people on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, treated 13.2 million people for TB and 515 million people for malaria.
**Improving healthcare**

Ending the epidemics requires stronger systems for health, and breaking down the barriers that prevent people from accessing lifesaving healthcare, including gender inequality, poverty and discrimination. The Global Fund has invested more than one-third of its resources in building resilient and sustainable systems for health and it estimates that over half of investments have benefitted women and girls.

**Increasing domestic investment in health**

The Global Fund has successfully unlocked the potential of domestic resources: governments have committed an additional US$5.9 billion in investments for HIV, TB and malaria programmes for 2015-2017.

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**What is the role of the UK Government?**

Successive UK Governments have supported the Global Fund.

At its last replenishment in 2013, where the overall target was $15 billion, the USA provided up to $5 billion making it largest donor; France was the second largest; and the UK was third, with a pledge of up to US$1.6 billion, or £1 million. The UK Government has helped save a life every three minutes.

In 2011 the Government’s Multi-lateral Aid Review described the Global Fund as ‘very good value for money’ and an updated Review is due to be released in spring 2016.

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**MAURINE’S STORY**

When Maurine found out her HIV positive status in early 2000 she was convinced she was going to die. People all around her were dying, many people were growing thin, frail, be stigmatised and mothers were losing their children.

Maurine has a son who is also HIV positive. Since her diagnosis Maurine’s outlook on her HIV has changed tremendously. Not only is she living a fulfilling and healthy life, but her son is able to go to school, able to play like any other. It is because of the Global Fund that this is possible.

Maurine is quite clear when she states she “should have died” when she received her diagnosis. However, she is now a mother, an employer and is healthy. She became an advocate and started the organisation Lean on Me. This provides comprehensive care and support to young women and adolescent girls living with HIV. She is able to do all of this because of the support from the Global Fund.

Watch Maurine’s full video here http://bit.ly/12ZtLRs