

# The Importance of the Global Fund

This month, we're asking you to write to the new Secretary of State, Rory Stewart, asking for a strong pledge to the Global Fund, as part of the UK's commitment to delivering health for all. These talking points show how the Global Fund helps strengthen health systems as part of a suite of interventions that work together to ensure healthy lives.

## What's the problem?

- We are not on track to deliver the Global Goals. HIV, TB and malaria kill millions of people each year, destroying the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised people.
- TB is the world's leading cause of death from an infectious disease. In 2017, over 10 million people fell ill with TB and 1.6 million people died from the disease.
- In 2017, 36.9 million people were living with HIV, and nearly one million people died of AIDS-related illnesses. Globally, malaria claims the life of a child every two minutes.

## The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

- Since 2002, the Global Fund has helped save the lives of 27 million people – the UK's contribution has helped save the lives of over 2 million people. You can find out the contribution made by taxpayers in your own constituency [here](#).
- Ending HIV, TB and malaria is within our grasp, but we must step up the fight. The Global Fund brings donors together to fight the three diseases and helps deliver health for all.
- The Global Fund offers excellent value for money. It pools resources, strengthens national ownership, provides technical expertise, and gains funding from the private sector and affected countries.
- If the UK doesn't invest now, we put at risk decades of progress, threatening the health of people all around the world. An ambitious pledge of £1.4 billion to the Global Fund in 2019 will uphold Britain's leadership on tackling global health challenges.

## How do global health investments work together?

- UK aid supports the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in lots of ways, including the Global Fund, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and the 'Nutrition for Growth' (N4G) agenda.
- Health – including good nutrition – must continue to be a priority for UK aid. Poor health and malnutrition are key causes of poverty and curb human potential.
- Investing in these global health partnerships extends the reach and impact of UK aid. These are proven to be some of the most cost-effective investments in global health.

See also our handy leaflet on [achieving universal health coverage](#).

Don't forget to **let the Campaigns team know that you've taken action** by emailing Dela at [dela.anderson@results.org.uk](mailto:dela.anderson@results.org.uk).

## Case study: Aftab's story.



Source: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

Aftab Ansari left his village to chase the dream of a better life in Mumbai. Then tuberculosis struck. After three years of treatment, Aftab was finally cured, but is still struggling to get his life back on track. For survivors like Aftab, traces of TB's trauma remain: poverty, debt and personal loss. Weakened by the disease, Aftab lost his job and was forced to spend all his savings, sell his wife's jewels and withdraw his two children from school to pay for food and rent. His out-of-pocket medical bills from a private clinic piled up, so he took out loans and sank US \$2,000 into debt, equivalent to 10 months' salary.

Aftab's wife and two children, aged 9 and 11, have moved back to the village, more than 1,000 km from Mumbai, until Aftab can pay his debts. He calculates it will take him at least two years. Every evening, after he ends his 10-hour shift, Aftab calls the family through a WhatsApp video conference – a rare moment of joy and laughter.

India has the world's highest burden of TB, with 27 percent of all global cases. It is also home to a quarter of all estimated patients with drug-resistant TB. India and the Global Fund are working together to end TB through innovative solutions, including promoting a closer engagement between the private and public sector to find and treat more TB patients. Like many patients in India, Aftab sought private treatment when his symptoms first appeared, although the government provides TB diagnosis and treatment free of cost.

TB has an enormous impact on households and economies, particularly in lower- and middle-income countries. Besides the physical suffering and the hard treatment, the total cost of TB for patients and their families can be catastrophic in medical expenses, as well as income and productivity loss, contributing to a poverty trap. Freeing families and communities from the burden of TB is just one reason we need to step up the fight to end the epidemic.

See also [these stories](#) from the Global Fund Advocacy Network.