

A virtual meeting with your MP

With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the nature of how we communicate, as well as the things we are advocating for, it's important to try to get a personal meeting with your MP to let them know how you feel about the impact of the pandemic on the issues RESULTS is working on – this month, focusing on TB, HIV and malaria.

Talking points

- The world has agreed to end TB, HIV and malaria by 2030.
- But COVID-19 lock-down restrictions and the redeployment of resources are stopping people who are ill with these diseases from getting the healthcare they need.
- This is threatening to reverse progress made to end TB, HIV and malaria and is likely to cause millions more deaths in the coming years.
- The Global Fund is able to quickly and efficiently help countries deal with COVID-19 and minimise the impact it will have on services for other diseases.
- The UK should support the international response to the pandemic through investing in the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

Ideas for taking MP meetings online

Many top tips for holding a successful meeting with your MP apply to virtual meetings in the same way as they do for face-to-face meetings. You can find our [guide to holding successful MP meetings here](#).

- Some MPs have shared how they are communicating during the COVID lock-down on their websites or social media. You can also find their details on [Parliament's website](#).
- Contact their office staff in the normal way to arrange your virtual meeting. Make it clear that you'd like to have a proper conversation as you would face-to-face.
- Find out if the MP has preferred ways of communicating during lock-down, such as Zoom, Skype or other conferencing software. If it's one you're not familiar with, make sure you download any software needed and practice using it in advance.
- A proper round of introductions and a clear structure for your virtual meeting are vital. It's even easier for an MP to get distracted in a virtual meeting, so make extra efforts to be clear, focused and succinct. This comprehensive guide to [leading groups online](#) and this [quick overview](#) of online meetings are great sources of advice.
- To mark the [RESULTS International Conference](#), we are holding a 'Week of Action' alongside our RESULTS partners in the US, from 22-25 June. Try to arrange your MP meeting to take place during this week if you can, and be sure to ask your them if you can take a photo or screenshot of your meeting and share on social media using the #voices4RESULTS hashtag to join in! Email dela.anderson@results.org.uk to let us know how your meeting went.

Case study

What is life like for people with TB under lock-down restrictions?

“During his trek to the TB centre, the tailor said he was stopped by the police and asked where he was going. He was allowed to pass after he told them he wanted to get medicines. It took him about an hour-and-half to walk to the district’s TB centre and around the same amount of time to return.”

Hear from people living with TB and doctors in India who share their stories about the difficulties of getting diagnoses and treated for TB under lock-down restrictions. Source: [The Caravan, 2020](#)

What is the Global Fund doing now?

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is working with countries to better equip their health systems to fight COVID-19 and resume services that tackle HIV, TB and malaria. Here are some examples:

Burkina Faso. €3.2 million has been allocated to provide 15 new ventilators to equip emergency units, molecular tests and equipment to strengthen laboratory capacity, personal protection equipment – including masks and gloves – for 17,900 community health workers to support contact tracing (or identifying who has come into contact with an ill person) and ensure the continuity of their activities during the crisis.

Mali. Using Global Fund funding, Mali has deployed its force of community health workers and community actors to identify new cases and help populations avoid mis-diagnosis. Mosquito net distribution campaigns to combat malaria are underway in multiple regions, and involve a combination of door-to-door net distribution in urban areas and setting-up fixed distribution points in rural areas. Fixed points will be opened for multiple days to avoid crowds at pick-up sites. The Global Fund is also exploring ways to support local production of masks and food distribution for the most vulnerable populations.

Uganda. In support of Uganda’s National COVID Preparedness Response Plan, the Global Fund is providing around US \$4.5 million to fight COVID-19, shore up critical health systems, and ensure that lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs continue. As part of the initial response, the Ugandan Ministry of Health has prioritised the purchase of personal protective equipment for health workers and diagnostic tests for COVID-19.

These are examples from just a few countries. You can find [more on the Global Fund's website](#), as well as powerful examples of [how communities are leading the fight](#) in many African countries.

[Watch this Q&A](#) from our partners, RESULTS in the USA, with the Executive Director of the Global Fund Peter Sands, speaking in more detail about how they are operating in the context of COVID-19 (starts from 01:00:55).