

Replenishing the Global Fund

Help maintain the UK's commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The Global Goals, agreed by the international community in 2015, commit us to achieving health for all. This involves ending the HIV, TB and malaria epidemics by 2030. But progress has been insufficient, and the diseases continue to kill millions of people each year. With ongoing attacks on UK aid and on multilateralism, there is increasing pressure for resources to be spent domestically and not on global health.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is one of a number of vital global health institutions which enable us to achieve health for all. It is the biggest external funding source for the fight against the three diseases, helping to save 27 million lives since 2002. It strengthens countries' health systems, reaching the most marginalised groups. But its current funding runs out this year, and at least \$14 billion is needed for the period 2020-22. In October, a replenishment conference in France will give donors the chance to provide the funding needed to end the epidemics. Donors including the UK must make bold financial commitments to the Global Fund, as a critical part of achieving health for all. By doing so, the UK Government will show it is serious about a 'Global Britain'. World TB Day (24 March) is a great moment to let MPs and the Government know that multilateral health programmes like the Global Fund are needed now more than ever. By supporting it, we are spending UK aid money on one of the most effective health interventions possible, and helping to achieve health for all.

The three epidemics

TB is the world's most deadly infectious disease, [killing 1.6 million people in 2017](#), despite its being both preventable and curable. Rising rates of drug-resistance pose a real threat to individuals and communities around the world, with multidrug-resistant TB set to cost the global economy an estimated US \$16.7 trillion by 2050. In 2017, [36.9 million people](#) were living with HIV. The infection rate remains stubbornly high, and hasn't declined amongst adults since 2010, with nearly one million people dying of AIDS-related illnesses in 2017. Since 2000, significant progress has been made to tackle malaria, dramatically reducing the total number of malaria cases and deaths. However, since 2015, malaria cases have increased. In 2017, there were [219 million cases of malaria](#) and 435,000 deaths, 61% of which were children aged under five.

Progress towards the Global Goals

The Global Goals, agreed by the international community in 2015, commit us to [ending the three epidemics by 2030](#) (target 3.3). But progress to date is insufficient, and HIV, TB and malaria continue to kill millions of people each year, stifling economic development and limiting the life chances of the most vulnerable people.

The need to make progress against TB has been particularly neglected. However, the first ever [UN High-Level Meeting on TB](#) ('HLM') in September 2018 saw world leaders committing themselves to taking action to end the disease. The [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#), created in 2002, provides the majority of international financing for TB programmes. This year the Fund needs replenishing, and ensuring it is fully funded is a crucial part of achieving the aim of the HLM.

Ending AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics is critical to reaching the Global Goal 3, health and well-being for all, and is one of the most tangible ways to demonstrate that the Goals are achievable. Many low- and middle-income countries are stepping up their investments in health, but it will be impossible to reach Goal 3 without a Global Fund replenishment of at least US \$ 14 billion.

The effectiveness of the Global Fund

The Global Fund has helped to save 27 million lives since 2002. It strengthens countries' health systems, and works in partnership with governments and community groups to reach the most marginalised people. [It has been proven to offer the UK taxpayer excellent value for money](#). It pools resources, consolidates technical expertise, and has leveraged increased investments from the private sector and from

high-burden countries. The Global Fund is the single most important mechanism for donors, recipient countries, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to unite their response to the three epidemics.

Over the next few years, the [Global Action Plan on Healthy Lives and Wellbeing](#) will see the Global Fund work more closely than ever before with other global health agencies, such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to increase its impact on strengthening health systems and progress towards Global Goal 3 (good health and wellbeing). In the words of DFID's Multilateral Development Review in 2016, multilateral agencies "expand the reach of UK development and mobilise tremendous resources and expertise to tackle global challenges". They are a critical part of achieving the aim of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the most effective and efficient way the UK can spend aid.

What is needed now?

The Global Fund's current funding runs out this year, and last month, it released an [investment case for its Sixth Replenishment](#), asking international donors for at least US \$14 billion for the period 2020-22. In October this year, a replenishment conference in France will give donors the chance to invest in a healthier, more equitable and more prosperous world. There is an even greater focus on building sustainable health systems that yield lasting results beyond HIV, TB and malaria, with greater coordination amongst health institutions and stronger, more sustainable health systems.

What has campaigning achieved so far?

Campaigning by RESULTS and our allies around the world has led to significant advances in the fight against TB and the other diseases. For example, at the last Global Fund replenishment in 2016, the UK pledged £1.2 billion, and last year made significant increases in its support for research and development into TB treatments at the UN HLM.

But the multilateral system is under attack

With regular attacks in the media and by some politicians on the UK's commitment to spending 0.7% of our national income on aid, pressure is increasing for resources to be spent domestically and not on global health. Ending HIV, TB and malaria is possible, but unless investment in the Global Fund is scaled up and not reduced, we could jeopardise decades of hard-won progress and put millions of lives at risk.

Continued UK leadership is needed

With a proud history of supporting the Global Fund and other multilateral health institutions, leadership on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and investing in research and development for better TB treatments, the UK should continue to play a leading role in the fight against the three epidemics. This year, the UK must make a bold financial commitment to the Global Fund. This will show that it means what it says when it talks about a 'Global Britain', leading on tackling global challenges, and amplifying its reach and influence.

World TB Day, 24 March

Sadly, we expect attacks on overseas aid and on UK funding of multilateral development institutions to continue. In these circumstances, it is vital for MPs to understand how agencies such as the Global Fund work, how they increase the UK's ability to combat global health threats and insecurity, and how they provide excellent value for money.

World TB Day (24 March) is a great moment to let MPs and the Government know that the Global Fund is needed now more than ever. By supporting it, we are spending UK aid money on one of the most effective health interventions possible, and helping to achieve health for all. Please arrange to visit your MP on or around World TB Day, asking him or her to contact the Secretary of State for International Development Penny Mordaunt, expressing support for a strong UK commitment to the Global Fund this year.

Take action!

- 1. This month, please arrange to visit your MP, to explain the importance of the Global Fund, and how it works to tackle TB and the other epidemics.** Explain why this matters to you. Ask them to write to Secretary of State Penny Mordaunt to say why strong UK support for the Global Fund is needed. This month's Background Sheets provide extra information about the Global Fund and its work alongside other health agencies.
- 2. 24 March is World TB Day!** Why not use this as a 'hook' for your local media or social media to explain why strong UK support for the Global Fund is needed. See our [media](#) and [social media](#) campaign guides.