

Ireland and the Global Fund

The partnership between Ireland and the Global Fund has achieved amazing results in global health

Ending AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria have saved more than 20 million lives since 2002, expanding opportunity and achieving greater social justice for families and communities worldwide.



9.2
MILLION

PEOPLE ON
ANTIRETROVIRAL
THERAPY FOR HIV



15.1
MILLION

PEOPLE HAVE
RECEIVED
TB TREATMENT



659
MILLION

MOSQUITO NETS
DISTRIBUTED BY
PROGRAMS FOR MALARIA

Our Partnership

As a founding partner, Ireland has been a key supporter of the Global Fund since 2002, contributing €193.5 million between 2002 and 2016. For the three-year funding period starting in 2017, Ireland has pledged €30 million – a firm sign of its commitment to alleviate the burden of the three diseases and building strong and resilient health systems. This represents the largest single investment for Ireland in global health and HIV.

Ireland takes part in the central governance of the Global Fund as part of the Point Seven voting constituency on the Global Fund Board (comprising countries that are committed to reaching the target of 0.7 percent of gross national income for official development assistance). In addition, Ireland participates in Country Coordination Mechanisms – the committee of community, government and health representatives that develop and guide Global Fund-supported programs in a country – in Uganda and Mozambique. Ireland's priorities have contributed to important Global Fund decisions, with increased emphasis on resilient and sustainable systems for health, greater focus on challenging operating environments and sustained commitment to transparency and accountability.



Ireland's Disbursements to the Global Fund 2002-2016 and Pledge 2017-2019 (€ million)

Priority Areas of the Partnership

Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health: The universal right to health is the principle that aligns the Global Fund with Irish Aid's priority of ensuring equity of access to quality health care. The Global Fund's core mission – to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics – can only be achieved with stronger systems for health, including improved facilities, care, training for health workers, information management, access, and stronger community support and response mechanisms. Global Fund investments in the treatment and prevention of HIV, TB, and malaria do not just improve the response to those diseases – they improve countries' overall health systems. Forty percent of Global Fund investments go toward building resilient and sustainable systems for health.



In Ethiopia, Global Fund support for human resources in health involves a program of integrated training for 38,000 health extension workers. The program has resulted in significant improvements in maternal and child services. The rate of delivery assisted by skilled health personnel has tripled, increasing from 20 percent in 2000 to more than 60 percent in 2015. Malaria deaths have fallen by 80 percent between 2005 and 2015, and the number of TB deaths has fallen by 36 percent in the same period. The Global Fund recently joined the SDG Fund in Ethiopia, which is also supported by Ireland's bilateral program in Ethiopia. This increases opportunities for synergies between Ireland's support of the Global Fund and its direct development assistance in-country.

Human Rights: The Global Fund works to address obstacles such as stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence and punitive policies that make it difficult or impossible for key populations to access health services. The Global Fund is committed to integrating human rights principles – participation, equity, accountability and transparency – throughout the grant cycle. These principles align with Ireland's leading international role in the fight against human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. Standing up against discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, and promoting and defending their rights, is one of Ireland's foreign policy objectives.

Reaching People Most in Need: The Global Fund invests to achieve the greatest impact for people most in need. Most of the programs supported by the organization are in low-income countries with a high burden of disease and where national health programs are least able to fully support treatment and care. Ireland is a strategic partner in this context, with 48 percent of its 2015 official development assistance earmarked for least-developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the needs are greatest.

Women and Girls: The Global Fund is focusing sharply on women and girls, making strategic investments to improve their health and supporting country-driven processes grounded in equity and inclusiveness. These investments are making a difference. Between 2005 and 2015, AIDS-related deaths among women aged 15 years and above declined 56 percent in 12 key African countries where the Global Fund invests. Antiretroviral therapy coverage is becoming available to more women, and more women are staying on treatment. Advancing gender equality is a key foreign policy objective for Ireland, and promoting the prevention and treatment of HIV among adolescent girls and women is a key aspect of this. Malaria also presents a serious risk for pregnant women. There is strong evidence that keeping adolescent girls and young women in school not only reduces their vulnerability to HIV infection but can yield healthy, educated and financially independent women who make well-informed choices about their lives. In 2015, approximately 60 percent of Global Fund spending was directed to women and girls, including programs to prevent gender-based violence and provide care to survivors, which is also an area that Ireland invests in.

National Ownership: The Global Fund finances programs in line with national health strategies of partner countries. Countries implementing Global Fund-supported grants determine their own solutions to fight the three diseases and are responsible for implementing the plans. Stimulating increased domestic investments in health is an essential component of transitioning from external financing toward domestically funded systems that sustain programs aimed at achieving universal health coverage. Through a collective effort by the partnership, countries have committed US\$6 billion to their health programs for 2015-2017, spurred in part by counterpart financing requirements of the Global Fund.

Seizing the Momentum

Through collective global commitment and thanks to unwavering support from partners like Ireland, we have proven we can force the three diseases into retreat. But we can't stop now. With millions of lives still at risk, we must seize the momentum, embrace ambition and move faster to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics and ensure strong and resilient health systems. The Global Fund is honored to have Ireland as a strong partner to help achieve this vision.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. The Global Fund's operating costs are just 2.3 percent of grants under management, reflecting an exceptionally high degree of efficiency. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.