

Strengthening Health and Community Systems

At a glance

Strong health and community systems are the foundation of the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria.

Health and community systems are critical to achieving universal health coverage and to countering emerging pandemic threats. These systems need to be resilient to withstand crises and extreme weather events like floods and cyclones; inclusive so that everyone, everywhere, has access to health care; and strong enough to respond to today's diseases and prepare for future health threats. Investing in health and community systems is the only way to ensure a healthier, safer and more equitable future for all.

Global Fund investments support country-owned and country-led health programs that are tailored to reach those most in need and strengthen the entire health system.

The Global Fund is the world's largest multilateral provider of grants to strengthen health and community systems. We are investing US\$6 billion between 2024-2026 to support low- and middle-income countries to strengthen their health and community systems. Our investments support integrated, people-centered services and focus on rising above disease silos to build health and community systems that protect people from multiple pathogens, address their holistic needs and enhance health and well-being for all.

Reducing the burden of HIV, TB and malaria frees up health system capacity and resources. The Global Fund also **directly supports countries to strengthen critical health system components** that deliver impact beyond the three diseases.

US\$6B

Between 2024-2026 the Global Fund is **investing US\$6 billion to support countries to strengthen their health and community systems**. This represents over one-third of all Global Fund investments in this period.



The Global Fund/Tommy Trenchard/Rooftop



Loira Machalele and Delfa Nhuiwane collect samples from the Infulene Water Treatment Plant in Maputo, Mozambique, as part of an early warning disease surveillance system. Wastewater sampling is being used as an effective early warning system for disease outbreaks in countries around the world. Global Fund investments support these systems in Mozambique as well as Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

The Global Fund invests in the multiple, interconnected components that make strong health and community systems:

- ● ● ● **Supply chains** deliver health products – including tests, medicines, and mosquito nets – promptly where they are needed.
- ● ● ● **Laboratories** are testing samples to detect pathogens.
- ● ● ● **Surveillance systems** collect data on pathogens and enable countries to monitor and respond to outbreaks in real-time.
- ● ● ● **Digital health information systems** use health data at all levels so countries and communities can make evidence-based public health decisions.
- ● ● ● **Community health systems** are designed, led and organized by communities themselves to address local needs and reach the most marginalized and vulnerable people with equitable and high-quality services.
- ● ● ● **Human resources for health**, including nurses, doctors, community health workers and laboratory technicians, are at the heart of health systems and play a vital role in delivering health services and fighting diseases.

Our investments in health and community systems are critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3

Building stronger health and community systems is the basis for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) – ensuring that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, wherever they are and whenever they need them without suffering financial hardship.

We support the integration of community health workers into primary health care systems, so that all people, everywhere, have the right to achieve the highest attainable level of health. In addition, our investments in HIV, TB and malaria contribute to cross-disease responses and free up health and community systems' capacities for other health priorities by reducing the burden of these three diseases.

We strengthen countries' capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemic threats

The Global Fund works directly with governments and communities to effectively respond to existing and emerging infectious diseases. Approximately US\$2.2 billion of our COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds are now being reinvested into building strong pandemic response capacities in five priority areas: human resources for health, including community health workers and community systems; laboratory systems; supply chains and waste management; early warning surveillance and response; and oxygen and respiratory care systems.

We work with key and vulnerable populations

Health systems need to ensure that everyone can safely and equitably access prevention and treatment services. The Global Fund supports and includes key and vulnerable populations in every stage of the fight against HIV, TB and malaria. We work with them to remove barriers to participation and increase their engagement in all Global Fund-related processes, from service planning to implementation and monitoring to advocacy and the provision of expert technical support.

We work in partnership

The Global Fund works with partners like the World Bank to support more efficient, effective, and sustainable financing to improve health outcomes in the face of climate change. With the World Health Organization, we accelerate support to countries to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, including UHC. We work with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to build resilient health systems and deploy some of the world's newest tools in the fight against malaria. The Global Fund partners with regional institutions like Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to support regional efforts to strengthen health systems financing, community health workers, laboratory systems and surveillance systems.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We raise and invest more than US\$5 billion a year to fight the deadliest infectious diseases, challenge the injustice that fuels them, and strengthen health systems and pandemic preparedness in more than 100 of the hardest hit countries. We unite world leaders, communities, civil society, health workers and the private sector to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved 59 million lives.