

44 million lives saved

Programs supported by the Global Fund partnership had saved 44 million lives as of the end of 2020. The number of deaths caused by AIDS, TB and malaria has been reduced by 46%¹ since 2002 in countries where the Global Fund invests. These achievements are due to tireless efforts by the diverse actors who comprise the Global Fund partnership – including governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, civil society groups, people affected by the diseases, and the private sector. But over the last year the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating. For the first time in the Global Fund’s history, key HIV, TB and malaria programmatic results declined. To regain this lost ground and end HIV, TB and malaria, we must also fight COVID-19 – and we must urgently reinforce the systems for health needed to defeat today’s pandemics and prepare for tomorrow’s.



State of the fight



HIV

The Global Fund provides 25% of all international financing for HIV programs. AIDS-related deaths have dropped by 68% since the peak of the epidemic in 2004 in countries where we invest. Eight countries have surpassed the UNAIDS “90-90-90”² 2020 testing and treatment targets; however, most countries have missed this target. While more people are on treatment than ever before, the number of infections isn’t dropping fast enough – and COVID-19 interrupted critical testing and prevention activities, particularly for key and vulnerable populations who are most at risk of contracting HIV.



Tuberculosis

The Global Fund provides 77% of all international financing for TB programs. TB deaths (excluding HIV-positive people) have dropped by 28% since 2002 in countries where we invest. Together with technical partners and implementing countries, we are finding more “missing” people with TB – people who go undiagnosed, untreated and unreported. But this progress was severely hit by COVID-19 in 2020. All TB testing and treatment results declined significantly compared to the previous year.



Malaria

The Global Fund provides 56% of all international financing for malaria programs. Malaria deaths have dropped by 45% since 2002 in countries where we invest. New innovations are emerging, including improved insecticide-treated nets and pilot projects of a new malaria vaccine for children. In the face of COVID-19, we successfully adapted malaria activities like mosquito net distributions and preventative therapy for children under 5; progress against malaria held largely steady, but did not advance.

Key results in 2020



21.9 million people on antiretroviral therapy for HIV – an 8.8% increase compared to 2019 despite COVID-19.



4.7 million people treated for TB – an 18% decrease compared to 2019 due to COVID-19.



188 million mosquito nets distributed to protect families from malaria – a 17% increase compared to 2019 despite COVID-19.



104 million people tested for HIV – a 22% decrease compared to 2019 due to COVID-19.



101,000 people on treatment for drug-resistant TB – a 19% decrease compared to 2019 due to COVID-19.



259 million people were tested for malaria – a 4.3% decrease compared to 2019 due to COVID-19.



8.7 million people reached with HIV prevention services – an 11% decrease from 2019 due to COVID-19.



194,000 children in contact with TB patients received preventative therapy – a 13% increase compared to 2019 despite COVID-19.



11.5 million pregnant women received preventive therapy – nearly the same as in 2019.

1. Data as of end-2020 for HIV; as of end-2019 for malaria and tuberculosis (2020 data not available at time of publishing)
 2. <https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/909090>

Strengthening systems for health

Resilient and sustainable systems for health are the foundation for defeating today's infectious diseases and the basis for preventing, preparing for and responding to future pandemics. The Global Fund is the largest multilateral investor in grants for systems for health, investing more than US\$1 billion a year. Most low- and middle-income countries were able to immediately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic using the same laboratories, disease surveillance, community networks, trained health workers and supply chains that were created to fight HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund partnership is also building on crucial lessons learned and community expertise from fighting existing epidemics, including breaking down human rights and gender-related barriers to ensure everyone can access the health services they need.

Fighting COVID-19

The Global Fund responded swiftly to COVID-19, providing significant funding and leveraging our expertise and strong global networks. As of August 2021, we had approved US\$3.3 billion to 107 countries and 16 multicountry programs through COVID-19 Response Mechanism funding and flexibilities in existing grants to support country responses to COVID-19 with critical tests, treatments and medical supplies, protect front-line health workers, adapt lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce fragile systems for health.

The Global Fund is a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a unique global collaboration working to accelerate the development and equitable distribution of COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines and strengthen health systems. We co-lead the ACT-Accelerator's Diagnostics Pillar and Health Systems Connector, and we support procurement and distribution for the Therapeutics Pillar. Through the ACT-Accelerator, the Global Fund is now the primary channel for providing grant support to low- and middle-income countries for COVID-19 tests, treatments (including medical oxygen), personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical elements of health systems strengthening.

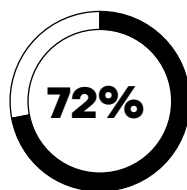


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Muhammad Yunus, (right) and Salaam Shaikh, coordinators for COVID-19 awareness in Mumbai, India, wear PPE to protect themselves.

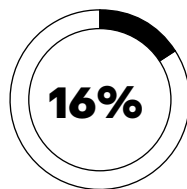
How countries are using the COVID-19 Response Mechanism

As of August 2021



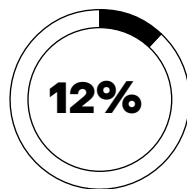
Reinforcing national COVID-19 response

Including purchasing critical tests, treatments, oxygen and medical supplies; protecting front-line health workers with training and PPE like gloves and masks; and supporting control and containment interventions, including test, trace and treat/isolate.



Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs

Including by delivering medicines, mosquito nets and critical supplies door to door, protecting community health workers and providing support and prevention services via digital platforms.



Making urgent improvements to health and community systems to help fight COVID-19, HIV, TB and malaria

Including by reinforcing supply chains, laboratory networks and community-led response systems.