

Six and a half million lives saved and billions of dollars committed to saving more

Around 60% of the Global Fund's investment is in Africa. The impact has been immense but much more still needs to be done.

New results show that Global Fund-financed programmes have saved 6.5 million lives through programmes to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, improve maternal and child health, and strengthen health systems. These results are announced as the Global Fund commits to invest in further life-saving programmes through its latest funding commitment.

At a time of major spending cuts in response to the economic crisis, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved 79 new grants with a 2-year commitment of US\$1.7 billion, a

large part of which will go to countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The investment in health programmes was made during the Board meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria in mid-December. 'It shows that even in hard economic times, we can continue to expand the fight against the three diseases,' said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopian Health Minister and Chair of the Global Fund Board. This tenth financing round is the third largest round in the Global Fund's history and brings the total approved funding to US\$21.7 billion for 150 countries since its creation in 2002.

The so called 'Round 10' grant approval announcement coincided with the latest Global Fund results showing progress in the fight against infectious disease.

Better insecticide-treated net coverage

Efforts to combat malaria have been impressive. In 2010 a remarkable 59 million insecticide-treated nets were distributed through Global Fund-supported programmes, a 54% jump on the previous year. A cumulative total of 160 million nets have been distributed and several large-scale distributions are underway with the goal of

This article has been written by the Communications Department at the Global Fund headquarters in Geneva.

reaching every family in sub-Saharan Africa with an insecticide-treated net. The number of malaria cases treated with Global Fund support nearly doubled in

2010, reaching 62 million compared with 33 million in 2009.

Malaria prevention coverage increased from less than 10% in 2002 to an estimated 70% by the end of 2010 for the countries most affected by malaria. The lives of at least 750 000 children are estimated to have been saved between 2001 and 2010.

Between 2002 and 2009, inter-

national donor agencies had committed more than US\$9.9 billion for malaria control in 81 endemic countries, of which 80% has come from the Global Fund.

Fewer deaths from AIDS

New results show that Global Fund-supported programmes deliver AIDS treatment for 3 million people, supporting half of those on treatment in Africa. There has been a 20% increase in life-saving anti-retroviral treatment (ART) provision compared with the end of 2009. A global total of 5.2 million people in low- or middle-income countries receive ART worldwide. Combating HIV and AIDS is a shared global responsibility and 4.7 million of the total AIDS drugs distributed are through the Global Fund, the US Government's AIDS programme PEPFAR or both. However, the 2010 revision of WHO guidelines on ART for HIV infection means the estimated number of children and adults needing ART in low- and middle-income countries at the end of 2009 had increased from 10.1 million to 14.6 million. Moving to the new guidelines will require an increase in investment, but it is expected that fewer hospitalisations and reduced deaths and infections in the medium term will compensate.

Since 2001, HIV incidence has fallen by more



Malawi: an infant malaria patient receives life-saving treatment

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than 25% in 33 countries, 22 of them in sub-Saharan Africa reflecting improved prevention as well as the natural course of the epidemic. The annual number of AIDS deaths worldwide has decreased reflecting the remarkable impact of treatment. In Africa an estimated 320 000 (20%) fewer people died of AIDS-related causes in 2009 than in 2004.

Progress is being made towards the goal of eliminating HIV transmission from mother to child and using PMCT to expand access to treatment care and prevention. The total number of children born with HIV has decreased by 24% in the last 5 years and in 2009 more than 50% of pregnant women living with HIV received ART to prevent transmission of HIV to their infants. Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, and Swaziland have achieved universal access to ART prophylaxis for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). The Global Fund is a major contributor to that progress having now supported 1 million pregnant women living with HIV to access PMTCT services, the vast majority of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 5 million basic care and support services have been provided to AIDS orphans and vulnerable children since the Global Fund started financing grants in 2003.

Results also show that 2.7 billion condoms have been distributed; 150 million HIV counselling and testing sessions have been conducted and delivered to people. Despite these advances, WHO estimates that only around 40% of people living with HIV know their status.

More people treated for TB

There has been a 28% rise in the number of people treated for TB through Global Fund programmes. TB incidence is falling and mortality at global level fell by 35% between 1990 and 2009 and the target of 50% reduction in mortality by 2015 could be achieved if the current rate of decline is maintained. WHO recently reported that 86% (2.2 million) of the 2.6 million patients with sputum smear-positive pulmonary TB in 2008 were successfully treated. In 2009, there were 5.8 million notified cases of TB, equivalent to a case detection rate of 63%. The Global Fund has helped to accelerate case detection and successful treatment with 1.7 million additional cases of TB detected and treated by Global Fund-supported programmes in 2010 compared with


1.4 million in 2009. By December 2010 the Global Fund had supported DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) for a cumulative total of 7.7 million people.

Of the 5.8 million TB patients notified in 2009, 250 000 had multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). Around 30 000 (12%) of these were diagnosed and notified to WHO mostly by European countries and South Africa – and about 23 000 were enrolled for second-line treatment. Programmes supported by the Global Fund have so far supported a total number of 43 000 MDR-cases. WHO expects the overall numbers of MDR-TB patients diagnosed and started on treatment to double in 2010 and 2011 compared with 2009.

Tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among people infected with HIV, according to WHO. Under new WHO guidelines, everyone with TB who is living with HIV should receive ART regardless of their CD4 count. However, the percentage of people with TB who received an HIV test in 2009 was only 53% in sub-Saharan Africa. Up to 13% of the 9.4 million TB cases worldwide in 2008 (around 1.4 million cases) were among people living with HIV. Nearly 80% of these were in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 140 000 TB patients were enrolled on ART in 2009.

Further funding

Nearly 60% of Global Fund investments are in sub-Saharan Africa and nearly 90% are in low-income and low-middle-income countries. Of the new programmes just approved for the period 2011 to 2013, US\$732 million of the US\$1.7 billion are for HIV and AIDS, US\$574 for malaria, US\$299 million for TB, and US\$128 million for Health System Strengthening. The 79 proposals which were found to be of sufficient technical quality to be funded constitute a success rate of just over half of the submitted proposals. The next opportunity for countries to apply for funding through the Global Fund will be the launch of Round 11 on 15 August 2011 with a submission due date for applicants of 15 December 2010 and approval in May 2012.



Africa HEALTH CPD Challenge
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Somalia: women receiving effective TB medication



The Gambia: pregnant women receive bed nets

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