

# Francophone Countries



The partnership between francophone countries<sup>1</sup> and the Global Fund in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria has achieved tremendous impact over the last two decades. Since its inception, the Global Fund has invested US\$14.6 billion in the fight against the three diseases in francophone countries: US\$6.6 billion for HIV and AIDS, US\$6.4 billion for malaria and US\$1.1 billion for TB. These investments – which make up 24% of the overall Global Fund portfolio – coupled with domestic finances from countries where the Global Fund invests have achieved great results.

As of 2022, health programs supported by the Global Fund partnership have helped to save 7.1 million lives in these countries.

The Global Fund's Strategy, "Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World" (2023-2028) puts greater emphasis on equity, sustainability, program quality and innovation. The Strategy takes determined action to tackle human rights and gender-related barriers and leverage the fight against HIV, TB and malaria to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable systems for health, which are better able to deliver health and well-being and to prevent, identify and respond to pandemics.

**Since the Global Fund was founded in 2002, the partnership has achieved the following key results in francophone countries:**



**2.4 million**

people on antiretroviral therapy\*



**5.8 million**

people treated for TB\*\*



**664.3 million**

mosquito nets distributed\*\*

Most investments by the Global Fund partnership in francophone countries are in West Africa, which carries a significant proportion of the world's malaria and HIV burdens. Global Fund investments in these countries therefore tend to skew toward those two diseases, with 43% of total investments directed to HIV programs and 48% directed to malaria.

<sup>1</sup> The Global Fund supports programs in 28 francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

\* Number of people currently on antiretroviral drugs (ARVs)

\*\* Cumulative result since 2002

The HIV burden is lower in francophone African countries than in the rest of the continent; however, they accounted for 16% of all new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa in 2022. Thanks to concerted efforts from the Global Fund and our partners, the AIDS-related mortality rate in francophone African countries has declined by 82% between 2000 and 2022. In the same time period, the AIDS-related mortality rate fell by 95% in Burundi, by 91% in Rwanda, and by 90% in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

The number of new HIV infections in francophone Africa also decreased, from 325,000 in 2000 to 108,000 in 2022. Between 2001 and 2022, HIV incidence rates declined by 92% in Burundi and Rwanda, and by 91% in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Through Global Fund-supported programs, antiretroviral therapy coverage in francophone Africa significantly increased from 4% in 2005 to 72% in 2022.

### **Cambodia:**

#### **Community engagement is crucial for HIV prevention**

In Cambodia, the government, health service providers and civil society work together to spearhead the HIV response in the country. Sex workers are a key and vulnerable population that is high-risk for HIV infection in the country. Outreach workers – sometimes former sex workers themselves – are key in building a bridge with this group and making sure they have access to the services they need to protect themselves and stay healthy. This community-led approach has achieved significant results: In 2022, antiretroviral therapy coverage among sex workers living with HIV was almost 83% – a stand-out among other countries in the region.

Peer educator Ly Rithy speaks to sex workers, sharing information with them on how to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, near Wat Phnom park in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Global Fund/Maika Elan/VII



### **Cameroon:**

#### **On track to reach the 95-95-95 targets**

Cameroon has continued to make progress against HIV. Between 2001 and 2022, HIV incidence rates dropped by 90% in Cameroon, declining to 2.7% in 2022. Specifically, between 2020 and 2022, Cameroon achieved a 20%

reduction in mother-to-child HIV transmission. Prevention efforts have been sustained, targeting key populations and adolescent girls and young women.

Cameroon has scaled up HIV services and is on track to reach the 95-95-95 targets. Currently, 93% of people living with HIV know their status, 88% of people who know their status are on treatment, and 79% of people living with HIV have a suppressed viral load.

The Global Fund has allocated over €166.9 million to support Cameroon's HIV programs between 2023-2025. These investments are focusing on prevention, specifically targeting key populations and adolescent girls and young women, reducing HIV-related mortality, and reducing mother-to-child transmission.

## Tuberculosis

Through Global Fund-supported programs, the TB mortality rate dropped by 69% in Viet Nam between 2000 and 2022. Viet Nam, along with the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is among the 30 nations considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) to have a high burden of TB.



Family members visit a TB patient at the National Lung Hospital in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Viet Nam was one of only six high TB burden countries estimated to have achieved the World Health Organization "End TB Strategy 2020" milestone of a 35% reduction in the absolute number of TB deaths between 2015 and 2020.

The Global Fund/Quinn Ryan Mattingly

### **Togo:**

#### **A resilient health system at the heart of the TB response**

Togo continues to make impressive gains against TB. In 2022, the country achieved 100% treatment coverage with an 87% treatment success rate, and the TB mortality rate dropped by 85% between 2000 and 2022. Behind this success is Togo's enhanced capacity to diagnose and treat TB and the various TB active case-finding activities implemented in recent years. Among these are the critical activities led by community health workers, including TB contact-tracing and collecting samples from people with undiagnosed TB in the community, and the TB screening campaigns implemented by the National

TB Program in prisons. In addition, with funding support from the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), Togo has strengthened its laboratory network, training laboratory technicians and increasing the number of GeneXpert diagnostic machines from 15 to 53 between 2021 and 2022. Togo also increased the number of diagnostic and treatment centers by almost a third in 2021, increasing access and health staff capacity to diagnose and treat the communities they serve.

## Malaria

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About 512 million people are at risk for malaria in francophone countries. West Africa, which is predominately francophone, is disproportionately affected by the disease, and accounts for half of the global burden. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Niger are among the 11 countries with the highest burden of malaria in the world.

Despite these challenges, the Global Fund partnership continues to make significant strides against the disease, leading to a 58% decline in malaria mortality rates between 2000 and 2022 in francophone countries in Africa. During the same period, malaria mortality rates dropped dramatically in some countries – by 81% in Burkina Faso and by 78% in Côte d'Ivoire. Viet Nam has reported zero malaria deaths since 2019, and in 2022 the Comoros reported zero malaria deaths for the first time.

The Global Fund works with communities to ensure that young children and pregnant women in particular are protected by mosquito nets. In 2022, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo all reported that more than half of the population had access to an insecticide-treated net.



A mother administers seasonal malaria chemoprevention, a preventive malaria treatment, to her child at a health center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Global Fund/Olympia de Maismont

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic: A strong community health response**

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In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, volunteer village malaria workers deliver education, mosquito nets, and testing and treatment services to

remote communities most at risk for malaria. They also collect data on malaria cases and use a mobile platform to feed the information into the national health system, which helps to inform the response to the disease. With Global Fund investments and by working with a range of partners including WHO and communities, Lao PDR has slashed the annual number of malaria cases from 36,000 in 2015 to approximately 2,300 in 2022.

## Resilient and sustainable systems for health

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Strong health systems are essential for ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics, accelerating progress toward universal health coverage, and helping countries prepare for emerging threats to global health security. Investments made in health systems over the past two decades to fight HIV, TB and malaria have progressively reinforced health systems and support countries to respond to existing and future pandemics.

### Rwanda:

#### Digital health a powerful tool for pandemic preparedness

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In Rwanda, years of investments in digital health have not only strengthened health systems, but have also helped the country rapidly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2012, Rwanda has been using DHIS2 – a health management information system platform – to strengthen local and national health systems. DHIS2 is a tool used to collect, validate, analyze and present health data. It is an open-source software with a flexible user interface that does not require technical computer programming skills. The system was vital in Rwanda’s response to COVID-19 and was leveraged for contact-tracing, diagnosis and keeping track of vaccination and treatment.



Mugiraneza Olivier, a nurse at Ruhengeri Referral Hospital in Musanze, Rwanda, registers patients' data on an iPad using OpenMRS, an electronic medical records platform.

The Global Fund/Brian Otieno

## Overcoming human rights-related barriers to health services

The Global Fund puts a strong emphasis on expanding comprehensive health and other support services for key populations. It promotes the meaningful engagement of key and vulnerable populations throughout the planning and implementation of grants, to ensure that health services reach those most affected by the three diseases. Benin, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal are among the 20 countries that received intensive support from the Global Fund between 2017 and 2022 to develop inclusive responses to the three diseases through the Breaking Down Barriers initiative. For the 2023-2025 period, the Global Fund expanded this initiative to four more countries, including Burkina Faso.

### Transgender communities break down barriers in Côte d'Ivoire

Teddy is a transgender woman and peer educator in Bonua, Côte d'Ivoire. Teddy fights to protect transgender rights despite the stigma and violence she and her community face every day.

While Côte d'Ivoire has made remarkable progress in the fight against HIV, infections among transgender people remain high. The Breaking Down Barriers initiative supported the development of a five-year national plan to protect human rights and address stigma in the country, with a focus on facilitating access to health services for people living with HIV and TB, as well as the LGBTQI+ community. Côte d'Ivoire is also part of the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination, which brings together communities affected by HIV, the Global Fund, UNAIDS, PEPFAR, government partners, civil society organizations and communities to reduce the stigma and discrimination that fuel the spread of HIV.



Teddy, a transgender peer educator, leads a peer-to-peer session, providing health information about PrEP and other preventive tools, in Bonoua, Côte d'Ivoire.

The Global Fund/Anush Babajanyan/VII

Every week, Teddy organizes a Gbairai: a friendly, informative gathering at a drop-in center where she educates her peers on preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, distributes condoms and encourages people to use HIV self-tests. Her dream is to eliminate HIV infections among her community.

## Women and girls

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Adolescent girls and young women disproportionately suffer the burden of the HIV epidemic across sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Fund and partners are expanding innovative programs to meet this population's unique needs.

### **Fighting for the rights of women and girls in Burkina Faso**

In Burkina Faso, Farida Tiemtoré and her colleagues are determined to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Through the organization Héroïnes du Faso, they organize outreach seminars, advocating for the education of girls among traditional and political leaders, campaigning for women in leadership positions and supporting women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Héroïnes du Faso was established with the support of Voix EssentiELLES, a fund that provides grants and capacity development for women and girls' community-based organizations, groups and networks and their leaders, strengthening the participation of women and girls in decision-making processes and spaces that influence health policies and programs. Voix EssentiELLES champions organizations in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, and has plans to expand to additional countries. Voix EssentiELLES is managed by Speak Up Africa and is backed and co-funded by Fondation CHANEL and the Global Fund.

Over the last two years, Voix EssentiELLES has been supporting over 40 women and girls' community-based organizations like Héroïnes du Faso. It is estimated that activities supported by Voix EssentiELLES have reached 658,000 people across the three countries. In Burkina Faso, more than 10 organizations benefit from the Voix EssentiELLES fund.

## Climate change and health

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Climate change is affecting the foundations of human health and well-being. It represents a profound threat to the Global Fund's mission to defeat HIV, TB and malaria, save lives and build a healthier, safer and equitable world for all.

Temperature changes, shifting rainfall patterns and extreme weather events are affecting malaria, influencing the geographical spread of the disease and seasonality of malaria transmission. This not only threatens previously unexposed populations to malaria but also increases the malaria risk for the most vulnerable, particularly children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and cyclones are becoming more frequent and intense, disrupting access to lifesaving health infrastructure and services, threatening the progress made against HIV, TB and malaria. In 2022, many parts of the Sahel experienced significant flooding during the monsoon season, with Niger and Chad among the countries particularly affected.

A significant 71% of Global Fund support is allocated to the 50 most climate-vulnerable countries. We provide rapid, flexible emergency funding to countries on the frontline of climate disasters. We also invest US\$2 billion a year to strengthen health systems to be more climate-resilient and better prepared for pandemic threats.



## Global Fund support in fragile contexts

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The Global Fund works in many countries and regions affected by poor governance, disasters or conflict. Countries in the Sahel are increasingly forced to dedicate a significant amount of their national budgets to address security threats. The Global Fund invests in the region to integrate health services into emergency responses and increase access to care for the most vulnerable populations.

The Sahel region is home to some of the world's highest rates of malaria worldwide, with children under 5 being particularly vulnerable. The Global Fund has invested US\$1.5 billion in the region to fight malaria, including through the distribution of mosquito nets, seasonal chemoprevention (SMC) for children under 5, preventive treatment for pregnant women, diagnostic tests and malaria treatment, and outreach programs.

## Domestic financing

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The Global Fund also acts as a powerful catalyst for domestic resource mobilization through co-financing requirements as well as broader advocacy and technical assistance for increased investments in health. For the current funding cycle (2023-2025), the Global Fund is working intensively with countries and partners to ensure co-financing commitments are delivered, despite the fiscal stresses and competing demands triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, debt crises, and other challenges including conflict and the effects of climate change.

For those components in francophone countries that have been through the 2023-2025 grantmaking process, countries realized over 120% of the co-financing commitments that they made over the 2020-2022 period. Over 21 francophone countries are expected to finalize their co-financing commitments for the 2023-2025 period in 2024, with 9 countries having already finalized them.

The Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference in 2022 was hosted by President Joe Biden. An unprecedented level of funds was mobilized through extraordinary leadership from the United States. Several countries from francophone Africa contributed to those efforts by making pledges, including Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda and Togo.

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### 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.