

The Republic of Korea

and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

More than 20 years of partnership between the Republic of Korea and the Global Fund have played an important role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria and in building a healthier, safer and more equitable world.

Health investments through the Global Fund have saved more than 50 million lives. Global Fund-supported programs have turned the tide in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, strengthening entire communities and tackling inequalities. Since the Global Fund was established in 2002, the annual death rate across the three diseases has fallen by over half (56%) in countries where we invest.

Unprecedented global cooperation over 20 years has resulted in annual death rates decreasing by:



74%

from AIDS-related illnesses



51%

from tuberculosis



48%

from malaria

Our partnership

South Korea has supported the Global Fund since its creation, pledging over US\$170 million to date. Global health is a growing priority for South Korea's international cooperation agenda. At the Seventh Replenishment, South Korea announced its highest ever pledge – US\$100 million – which represents a fourfold increase from its Sixth Replenishment pledge of US\$25 million. South Korea emphasizes the importance of health as a human right and an essential factor for socioeconomic development, with a particular focus on equitable access to global public goods and collective engagement to keep the world safe from infectious disease threats.

South Korea joined the Global Fund Board in 2018 – since then, they have been a dynamic contributor in shaping Global Fund governance policies.

South Korea is one of the largest suppliers of health commodities to the Global Fund, providing about US\$565 million in health products from 2020-2022. Diagnostic tests represent close to 82% of the total volume of essential health products procured from Korean biomedical companies.



The Global Fund/Tim Knox

President Yoon Suk Yeol announced South Korea's unprecedented commitment of US\$100 million at the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment pledging conference in New York City on 21 September 2022.

Priority areas of our partnership

In global health, the Republic of Korea focuses on building sustainable health systems and improving access to quality health care for all. Korea joins the Global Fund in a commitment to achieving universal health coverage in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Resilient and sustainable systems for health

The Global Fund is the largest multilateral provider of grants for strengthening systems for health. Over the 2021-2023 funding cycle, we are investing US\$4.9 billion, or US\$1.5 billion a year, in formal and community health systems through our core grants and our COVID-19 response – about one-third of our total investments. This includes improving procurement and supply chains; strengthening data systems and data use; building an adequate health workforce; strengthening community responses and systems; and promoting more integrated service delivery so people can receive comprehensive care throughout their lives.

Pandemic preparedness and response

As the leading multilateral agency in the fight against the world's deadliest infectious diseases – HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 – the Global Fund partnership is uniquely placed to work with partners to support countries to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics. A [study](#) published in The Lancet found that over one-third of Global Fund investments to fight the three diseases contribute to advance core components of health security.

Diseases know no borders, and the COVID-19 pandemic makes clear that our global health security is only as strong as the world's weakest health system. Strong, inclusive formal and community health systems built for the fight against existing diseases including HIV, TB and malaria are critical to making the world battle-ready for the next pandemic. We have seen this during COVID-19: Many low- and middle-income countries used the same laboratories, supply chains, data systems, diagnostics tools, health workers and community systems built to fight HIV, TB and malaria as the foundation of their response to the new pandemic.

Fostering innovation

Scientific progress and innovative ideas driven by both public and private investment are unlocking improvements in disease prevention, treatment and care.

The Global Fund partnership draws on the best innovations from across sectors while stimulating new innovations for more rapid progress and greater impact. HIV self-testing empowers people who otherwise may not get tested with an option that is safe, confidential and convenient. Between 2021 and 2023, the Global Fund will invest US\$60 million in HIV self-testing – a fourfold increase compared to what was invested in the previous three years.

To fight TB, the Global Fund has supported the roll-out of bidirectional testing, where people are simultaneously screened and tested for TB and COVID-19. Identifying people with TB and COVID-19 is a crucial step toward ending these diseases as public health threats. In the future, it is likely this approach will be expanded to other diseases.

To respond to malaria, the Global Fund and Unitaid have each invested US\$33 million from 2018 to 2022 to introduce new insecticide-treated nets to fight malaria-carrying mosquitos. The New Nets Project is meant to safeguard the gains we have made against malaria and use new tools to reach the goal of ending the disease as a public health threat.

Tackling antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance – when organisms develop resistance to antimicrobial drugs – is one of the biggest threats to our future global health and economic security. Deaths from drug-resistant TB account for about one-third of all antimicrobial resistance deaths worldwide. The Global Fund provides 76% of international financing for TB and is a major source of funding for the drug-resistant TB response in low- and middle-income countries.

In the Greater Mekong, the Global Fund partnership is tackling the emergence of drug-resistant malaria, which threatens a devastating setback for the region and a major shock to health security. The Global Fund is also putting a larger focus on resistance to HIV drugs by expanding the newest treatment regimens that are

more effective, cheaper, and less prone to inciting resistance.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Global Fund remains committed to supporting the health of people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Global Fund has invested over US\$120 million to fight TB and malaria in the country since 2010. For the 2023-2025 period, the Global Fund has allocated US\$40.2 million to the DPRK to fight TB and malaria and build resilient and sustainable systems for health.

Indonesia: Genome Lab Technology Prepares for Future Health Threats



The Global Fund/Jiro Ose

From the newest diagnostic technology to innovative treatments for adults and children, there is an incredible arsenal of resources that exist in the fight against TB. Whole genome sequencing is a cutting-edge laboratory method that determines the DNA sequence of an organism's genetic details. In the fight against TB, this sequencing technology can be used as a vital surveillance tool – to rapidly determine TB transmission and help identify mutations that lead to drug resistance. Rapid identification of TB can result in a rapid response to halt the spread of the disease by getting people on treatment as fast as possible. But like many of the tools used to fight TB, whole genome sequencing can be used to fight other diseases as well, including COVID-19. By investing in whole genome sequencing for TB surveillance, we are simultaneously fighting other diseases and preparing for future health threats.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund invests more than US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, equitable future for all. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have invested an additional US\$5 billion to fight the new pandemic and reinforce systems for health. We unite the world to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. It's working. Together, we have saved 50 million lives. We won't stop until the job is finished.