

Global health in a changing global context

Parliamentary roundtable, September 2025

Global health is facing a major crisis. This is undeniable. The reduction in donor financing for health started in the past few years has sharply accelerated in 2025. Many public donors have dramatically cut ODA budgets and are now making hard choices on the allocation of constrained resources.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) – providing 26%, 73%, and 59% of all international financing for HIV programs, TB programs and malaria programs respectively – has not been immune to the uncertainties in the global health financing landscape. For the first time since its inception in 2002, the Global Fund has been forced to review grant allocations amid the implementation of the current grant cycle (2023-2025). This reprioritization exercise is targeting an aggregate reduction of approximately US\$1.45 billion, equivalent to a reduction of about 11% from original country budgets. Over the past few months, the Global Fund has been working closely with country partners to ensure the highest value for money for each dollar invested; safeguard lifesaving interventions; prioritize equity, human rights and gender considerations; and consider the country context and all sources of funding in the final decisions.

Dramatically, the cuts in global health financing coincide with widespread epidemiological challenges such as increasing drug resistance, and broader global pressures such as debt distress, conflict, the erosion of human rights, and the impact of climate change.

On the other hand, this is also a moment of great potential: thanks to science, ending HIV as a public health threat is now within reach; we have strong momentum in the fight against TB with new upcoming treatment to be deployed; and powerful tools are available to make important progress in the fight against malaria after a decade of stalemate. Global progress hinges on the leadership of governments and communities, bold investments, and a shared commitment to a lasting impact.

The Global Fund partnership's response to this crisis builds on the strengths of a model that has delivered so much – 70 million lives saved and the combined death rate from HIV, TB

and malaria cut by 63% as of December 2024. At the same time, we're committed to making the changes required to meet the demands of a changing global context.

Among the most important attributes of the Global Fund proven model are that it is country-driven, people-centered and community-led, focused on the people most at risk, focused on sustainability, efficient and effective, flexible and responsive. While we stay true to our values and principles, we are ready to embrace bold changes to sustain and accelerate our progress: sharpening our focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, accelerating the pathway to self-reliance, accelerating access to innovations, pursuing greater integration to further progress toward universal health coverage and stronger pandemic preparedness, and continuing to improve efficiency and effectiveness. At the same time, we're determined to deepen the collaboration with partners, playing our part in the broader reshaping of the global health ecosystem.

In a context of constrained resources, accelerating the transition to nationally owned and nationally led health systems is more urgent than ever. Yet this is a pathway, not a switch. Too much abrupt transition will derail progress, leave the vulnerable behind, and cost millions of lives. Moreover, countries vary widely in their readiness to undertake this transition. The Global Fund acts as an enabler on this pathway – encouraging, supporting, and incentivizing countries to take leadership, while ultimately stepping back as they assume full ownership. In this pathway, trust and support from all our donors and partners are critical.

In this context, the Global Fund greatly welcomes the commitment by the United States to expand access to lenacapavir, a breakthrough HIV prevention drug. In July, the Global Fund announced an agreement with Gilead to secure access to this new tool that has the potential to transform HIV prevention worldwide. With this recent announcement, the U.S. has expressed interest to work with the Global Fund as a key partner to jointly plan for the efficient rollout of lenacapavir in countries with significant HIV burden. This collaboration will emphasize country-driven planning to ensure national programs can integrate lenacapavir into their HIV prevention strategies in the most efficient, effective, and sustainable way.

To continue fighting the deadliest epidemics and prevent a resurgence that could undo decades of progress, the continuous commitment and solid contribution from all partners and donors is critical. We are grateful for the longstanding support from the government of the Netherlands - our 10th largest public donor - and we look forward to continuing the excellent collaboration with the Dutch global health ecosystem, including institutions, civil society, the private sector and academia.

Together, we can deliver the promise and can make extraordinary things happen, such as defeating formidable diseases such as AIDS, TB and malaria. Whether you live or die should not be determined by who you are or where you live.