

India



The Global Fund / Vincent Becker

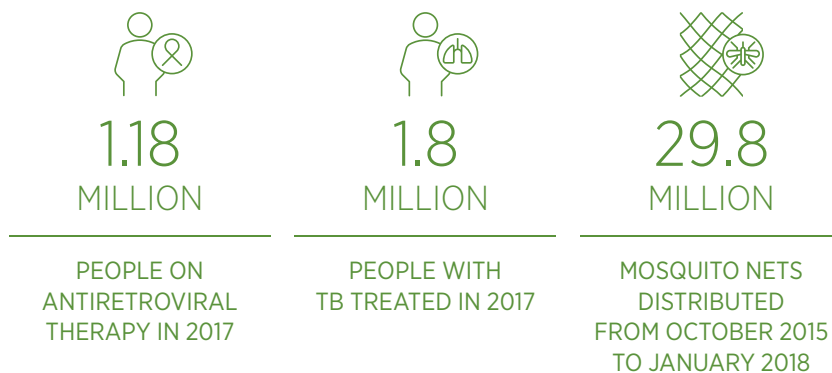
India is a strategic partner of the Global Fund, both as an implementer and a donor. The government of India has shown great leadership in improving the health needs of its citizens and fighting infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis. India has ambitious goals for all three diseases, including ending TB by 2025 – five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2002, the Global Fund has disbursed US\$2.1 billion in programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria and strengthen health systems in India.

With a population of 1.3 billion, India faces considerable health challenges.

TB
India has the world’s highest burden of TB, with 27 percent of all global cases. It is also home to about a quarter of all patients with drug-resistant TB. About 40 percent of the population in India is estimated to live with latent TB infection. Every year, more than

a million people with TB in India are “missed”, meaning they are not diagnosed, treated or reported. TB affects people at the prime of life, when they can contribute the most to their families, communities and countries. Failing to end TB will cost India more than US\$250 billion through 2030, according to research conducted by KPMG on behalf of the Global TB Caucus.

Main results achieved by Global Fund-supported programs:



HIV

India has the third largest number of people living with HIV in the world, with an estimated 2.1 million people. The country has an estimated 88,000 new HIV infections and 69,000 AIDS-related deaths. Since 2010, new HIV infections have decreased by 46 percent and AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 22 percent. The HIV epidemic is concentrated among key populations: 6.26 percent among people who inject drugs, 3.14 percent among transgender population, 2.69 percent among men who have sex with men, and 1.56 percent among sex workers.

Malaria

India accounts for 4 percent of the estimated global malaria cases and 68 percent of reported cases in the WHO South-East Asia region. However, malaria cases in India have halved since 2000. The last WHO world malaria report singled out India for its impressive gains against the disease: the country recorded a 24 percent reduction in cases in 2017 compared to 2016. The country has a vision for a malaria-free India by 2027.

Our Support

The Global Fund is supporting India's goals to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics. For the 2017-2019 allocation period, the Global Fund has allocated US\$500 million to the fight against the three diseases. On TB, Global Fund grants are geared toward supporting India's goal of ending TB by 2025. That includes many aspects of work, including the purchase and installation of GeneXpert machines and cartridges, upgrading of culture and drug sensitivity testing in laboratories, which are used for early detection of drug-resistant TB, and the procurement of second-line drugs for treatment of MDR-TB patients. Global Fund investments are also used to expand programs aimed at engaging private health care practitioners to ensure proper diagnosis, treatment and support is provided to patients using private services, and to ensure

notification of TB patients who are diagnosed at private health facilities. Our TB grants also support active case finding and improved TB care and prevention for key populations. We financed the procurement of mobile vans equipped with GeneXpert machines, which are being used for active case finding, especially in hard-to-reach and tribal populations. Our funding is also used to engage with communities, providing patient support for MDR TB to help patients adhere to treatment, and support TB/HIV collaborative activities

On malaria, Global Fund grants have supported the mass distribution of insecticide-treated nets. Through Global Fund support, 29.8 million long-lasting insecticide treated nets were distributed from October 2015 to January 2018 in seven North Eastern States, Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. These 11 states accounted for 87 percent of reported malaria cases in India in 2015. The distribution of insecticide treated nets has proven to be a key contributor to malaria case reduction in India, an achievement highlighted in the last WHO world malaria report. The country recorded a 24 percent reduction in cases in 2017 compared to 2016. Among the high burden countries, only India showed a substantial decline in malaria burden.

On HIV, Global Fund grants support universal access to antiretroviral treatment and the roll-out and full implementation of the 'test and treat' strategy for all people living with HIV, with a special focus on key populations. Our grants are also being used to maximize the retention of patients on treatment and for programs aimed at the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Pressing Forward

India's political leadership and commitment is an example to other countries and regions to develop strong disease strategies and increase domestic investments in health. The government has adopted a national health policy that

seeks to increase government health spending to 2.5 percent of GDP. Under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, India aims to expand the provision of primary care to deliver universal health coverage.

Domestic Financing

India has significantly increased its domestic financial resources and is taking up more responsibility in the fight against the three diseases. India has more than doubled its financial commitments to the three programs during the current implementation period (2018-2020) compared with 2015-2017. Domestic resources to fight TB, for example, have increased to US\$740 million from US\$333 million during the current implementation period.



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A key weapon in India's progress against malaria is its army of volunteer community workers, known as ASHAs, or Accredited Social Health Activists, who deliver essential malaria services in rural areas. ASHAs are trained to prevent, detect and treat cases of malaria. ASHAs go house to house, sometimes trekking from one hamlet to the next through steep hills and over bamboo bridges. They educate the community about malaria, take blood samples of suspected patients and, if needed, deliver malaria drugs on the spot.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century organization designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

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