

# UK investment needed in the Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria

Talking points, October 2022

## What happened at the Global Fund's 7th replenishment conference?

At the Global Fund's 7th replenishment conference in New York on 21 September, countries around the world [stepped up](#) to meet the need to increase resourcing for the fight to end the three diseases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many countries increasing their pledge by 30%. The conference host, the US Government, has shown a high degree of leadership in its call for an uplift in funding to address the increased challenges of tackling these resurgent deadly diseases.

RESULTS UK is [disappointed](#) that the UK Government made no commitment of additional resources at the conference, though it expects to be able to make a financial commitment in the coming weeks. There have been understandable pressures on the UK Government, including the cost of living and energy crises, and the war in Ukraine, as well as domestic priorities such as the formation of a new Government and the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II coming just days before the conference. However, this was a massive missed opportunity to continue the UK's commitment to international development.

Overall, the conference was a [success](#), with \$14.25 billion of the \$18 billion target being raised, with the hope of further investments being announced by other international donors, such as the UK and Italy. The UK must play its part in closing the gap, and pledge £1.8 billion – a 30% increase on its 2019 contribution.

## The case for continued investment in the Global Fund

The Global Fund is one of the most effective multilateral bodies tackling major global disease threats, and one of the best ways of spending the UK's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget. Through its partnerships with countries and investors worldwide, the Global Fund has saved 50 million lives over the last 20 years. In 2021 alone, it provided 23.3 million people with antiretroviral therapy for HIV, treated 5.3 million people for TB, and distributed 133 million mosquito nets.

The Global Fund's [Investment Case](#) for the 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment set out clearly the increased challenges of tackling the three diseases caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which diverted resources and political attention and enabled the diseases to spread in communities facing lock-downs and reductions in access to health care. At present, without additional funding from global and domestic sources, the world will not meet its target to end the three diseases by 2030.

## What the UK needs to do now

We need to see all governments play their part and take their fair share of the burden of fighting HIV, TB and malaria. The UK is now one of very few major economies not to have pledged resources to the Global Fund for the period 2023-25, and we urgently need to see the UK pledge its fair share by 21 October at the latest, to enable the Global Fund to work responsibly in partnership with implementing countries to allocate the money to health programmes.

We are pleased that the Government [has said it supports the Global Fund](#). But kind words are not enough: at a time when so many of our allies have significantly increased their pledges, the UK must not step back from showing global solidarity in the fight against deadly infectious diseases.

While it is [highly likely](#) that we will see even lower UK ODA levels than in the past, and likely [reduced levels of funding](#) for multilaterals overall, this must not be allowed to hinder UK support for the Global Fund at such a crucial moment. The UK must quickly pledge a sum commensurate with its role as a wealthy G7 country by 21 October. Failing to do so will not only result in a reduction in international funding overall, but will also signal to the rest of the world a significant retreat from the UK's [commitments](#) to tackling diseases and preparing for future health threats.

### **Further reading**

The Global Fund has consistently been found [to offer high impact](#) and to be closely aligned to the UK's international development objectives. By pooling resources, consolidating expertise and leveraging investments from endemic countries and the private sector, the Global Fund offers one of the most value-for-money investments of UK ODA spend.

The UK has been one of the Global Fund's most significant supporters since 2002. During the previous funding cycle, the UK [pledged £1.4 billion](#). The UK has a seat on the Global Fund board, using its influence to shape Global Fund policy to drive greater efficiency and transparency.

HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria continue to needlessly kill millions each year, despite being preventable and treatable. By continuing to invest in the Global Fund, the UK would not only help [tackle these diseases](#), but also help strengthen health infrastructures globally, improving access to basic services for the most marginalised and vulnerable people, and helping to provide resilience against future health threats.

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