

Research Briefing

14 November 2022

Number 9644

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UK aid and the Global Fund to fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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Summary

In 2002, the Global Fund was [founded as an international organisation to work to end AIDS, Tuberculosis \(TB\) and Malaria across the world](#). As of 2022, it has invested more than US\$55.4 billion in 155 countries and with its partners has saved an estimated 50 million lives. The UK is one of its largest donors.

This briefing describes the background to the Fund, including the global prevalence of AIDS, TB and Malaria, the effectiveness of the Global Fund, and past and future UK commitments to it.

How effective is the Global Fund?

The UK Government [has rated the Global Fund highly](#) (PDF), including in its global reach, value for money, and alignment with UK aid objectives.

In the [2016 review of the multilateral organisations that UK aid funds](#) (PDF), the then Department for International Development (DFID) said the Fund was achieving “exceptional results.” This was the highest possible ranking in the review. The Fund was one of only three of the 38 reviewed bodies to receive the highest rankings in results, value for money and alignment with UK policy.

2024-26 Fund replenishment

In 2022, the [Global Fund launched its seventh funding replenishment](#), covering 2024 to 2026. It is seeking to raise at least US\$18 billion, [90% of which will come from donor governments](#). It said US\$15.7 billion [was raised](#).

UK pledges £1 billion for 2023-25

The UK was a founding member of the Fund and to the end of 2021 was its third largest donor, [contributing £4.4 billion since 2002](#).

The [UK was not among those pledging money](#) at the replenishment conference in September 2022. However, the Government committed to [making a “substantial commitment.”](#)

The UK’s delay was [despite calls from the International Development Committee Chair](#), Sarah Champion MP, and [All Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and neglected tropical diseases](#) to commit to the Fund.

The Government’s decision over how much to commit [occurs within the context of a reduced aid budget](#), which currently stands at 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI), down from 0.7% of GNI from 2013 to 2020.

On 14 November 2022, the Government [announced a pledge of £1 billion](#) for 2023-25. This compares to [£1.4 billion pledged for the previous replenishment](#), and below the £1.8 billion called for by [some NGOs](#) and [parliamentarians](#).

1

What is the Global Fund?

Founded in 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria [intends to end these three epidemics by 2030](#) in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3:

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

It also supports other SDGs, including reducing maternal mortality and supporting access to sexual and reproductive healthcare.¹

The Fund is a [substantial funder of global efforts](#), providing from 2002 to June 2022:

- 30% of all international funding for **HIV and AIDS** programming: US\$24.2 billion for HIV/AIDS and US\$5 billion in TB/HIV programmes.
- 63% of **Malaria** funding: US\$16.4 billion.
- 76% of **Tuberculosis** funding: US\$8.5 billion for TB and US\$5 billion in TB/HIV programmes.²

The Fund does not implement these programmes directly, but instead acts as a funding mechanism that works with governments, civil society, the private sector, and local communities to address these three diseases.

The UK is one of the 20 members of the Fund's board, which is responsible for overseeing and evaluating its activities.³

How does the Global Fund work?

The UK's Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) [published a non-evaluative information note on the Global Fund](#) in September 2022.

This describes how the Fund works, how it responded to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the UK's interaction with it as a substantial funder.

¹ Global Fund, [Global Fund strategy 2023-2028](#), accessed 25 October 2022

² Global Fund, [Results report 2022](#), accessed 25 October 2022

³ Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), [Information note: The UK's work with the Global Fund](#), 20 September 2022, 'How does the Global Fund work?'

2 Global HIV, Malaria and TB prevalence

2.1 HIV/AIDS

What is HIV/AIDS?

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that targets the immune system and weakens people's defence to infection and some types of cancer. The most advanced stage of HIV is AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

There is no cure for HIV, but timely diagnosis, treatment and care allow many to live with the infection.⁴ Vulnerable populations, such as men who have sex with men, can [sometimes face legal and social barriers to treatment](#), however, which increases their vulnerability.⁵

Prevalence of HIV/AIDS

The World Health Organization (WHO) [estimates that 40 million people have died from HIV](#) since its detection around forty years ago.

In 2021, it estimates 650,000 people died from HIV-related causes and 1.5 million acquired it.

Globally, an estimated 38.4 million live with HIV, of whom two thirds live in Africa.⁶

In 2021, [populations most at risk](#) were sex workers and their clients, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, and their sexual partners. They accounted for 70% of global HIV infections, including 94% of those outside sub-Saharan Africa.⁷

[Women and girls are also vulnerable](#): Of the new infections in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2021, 63% were women and girls. The decline in HIV cases has also been greater with adolescent boys and young men since 2010: 56% versus 42%. UNAIDS attributes this to differing access to testing and sexual and reproductive health services.⁸

⁴ WHO, [HIV](#), 27 July 2022

⁵ UN Development Programme, [Advancing human rights, equality and inclusive governance to end AIDS](#), 16 March 2017

⁶ WHO, [HIV](#), 27 July 2022

⁷ UNAIDS, [Global HIV & AIDS statistics—factsheet](#), accessed 25 October 2022

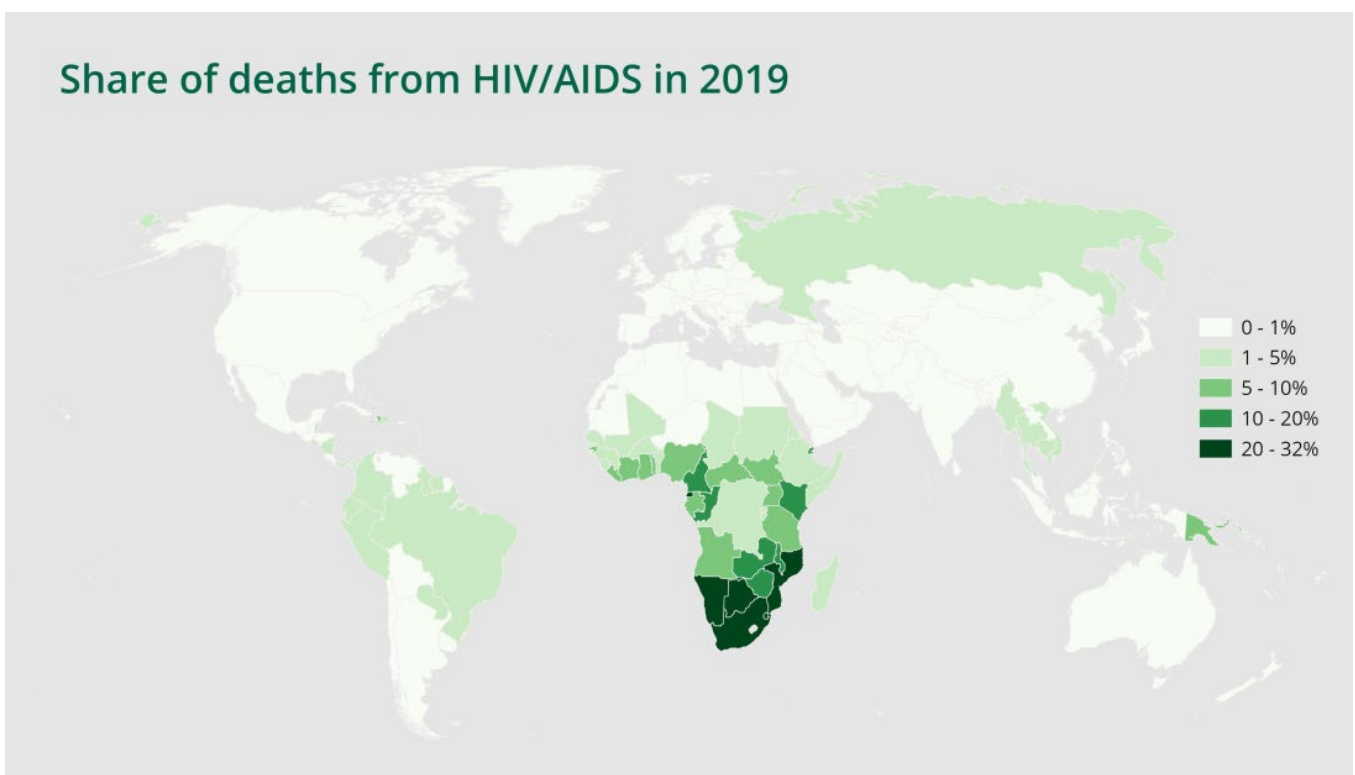
⁸ UNAIDS, [In danger—UNAIDS Global AIDS update 2022](#), 27 July 2022, p259

The Global Burden of Disease study reported that 1.5% of global deaths were caused by HIV/AIDS in 2019.⁹

This global proportion masks wide variations in the toll of HIV/AIDS across individual countries.

As the map below shows, the proportion of deaths from HIV/AIDS was below 1% across Europe and North America, while for Southern Sub-Saharan Africa the share was very high.

Just under a third (32%) of deaths in Lesotho and over a quarter of deaths (28%) in South Africa were caused by HIV/AIDS in 2019. The share was also high across Botswana (27%); Mozambique (25%); Namibia (20%); Zambia (18%); Kenya (17%); and Congo (12%).



Source: Global Burden of Disease 2019 data accessed via [HIV / AIDS - Our World in Data](#)

⁹ [Global Burden of Disease 2019 \(thelancet.com\)](#)

2.2

Tuberculosis

What is TB?

TB is caused by bacteria spread through the air when people with the disease cough, sneeze, or spit. It primarily targets the lungs.

TB is curable and preventable. However, [nearly all HIV-positive people with TB will die, according to the WHO](#). This is due to their weakened immune systems. Initial symptoms are often mild. This means many people delay seeking care for several months, resulting in its transmission.¹⁰

Prevalence of TB

Worldwide, [TB is the second cause of death from an infectious disease worldwide](#) (after Covid-19, and above HIV/AIDS).¹¹

The latest [WHO Global TB report](#) estimated that around 1.6 million people died from TB in 2021. This was higher than the two previous years (1.5 million, 2020, and 1.4 million, 2019).¹²

An estimated 10.6 million fell ill with the disease in 2021, up from 10.1 million in 2020. The TB incidence rate (new cases per 100,000 people per year) rose by 3.6% between 2020 and 2021, reversing declines of about 2% per year for most of the previous two decades.

Around 30 countries accounted for 87% of new infections in 2021. Three countries—India (26%), Russia (8.5%) and Pakistan (7.9%) represented 42% of all cases in 2021.¹³

The severity of national TB epidemics, in terms of the number of incident TB cases per 100,000 population per year, varies widely among countries, from less than five to more than 500 new and relapse cases per 100,000 people per year.

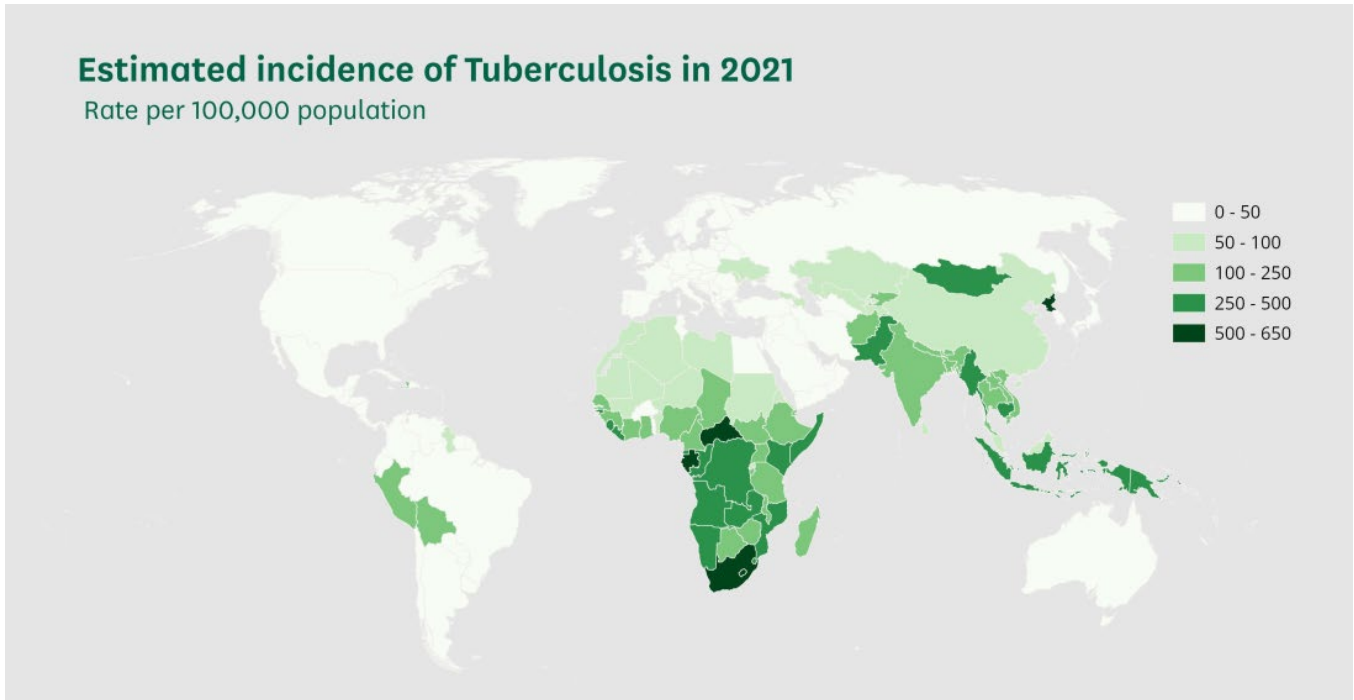
The map overleaf shows 2021 incidence rates by country. While many countries had a low incidence of TB, mainly in Europe and the Americas, 30 countries had incidence rates of over 250 new cases per 100,000 population. There were more than 500 new cases per 100,000 population in the Central African Republic, Gabon, Lesotho, South Africa, and North Korea.

¹⁰ WHO, [Tuberculosis](#), 27 October 2022

¹¹ As above

¹² [Global tuberculosis report 2022 \(who.int\)](#)

¹³ As above, p16



Source: [WHO Global Tuberculosis data](#)

2.3 Malaria

What is Malaria?

Malaria is a disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through Anopheles mosquito bites. Initial symptoms are often mild but left untreated it can progress to severe illness and death. It is, however, preventable and curable.¹⁴

Prevalence of Malaria

In 2020, there were an [estimated 241 million malaria cases and 627,000 deaths](#).

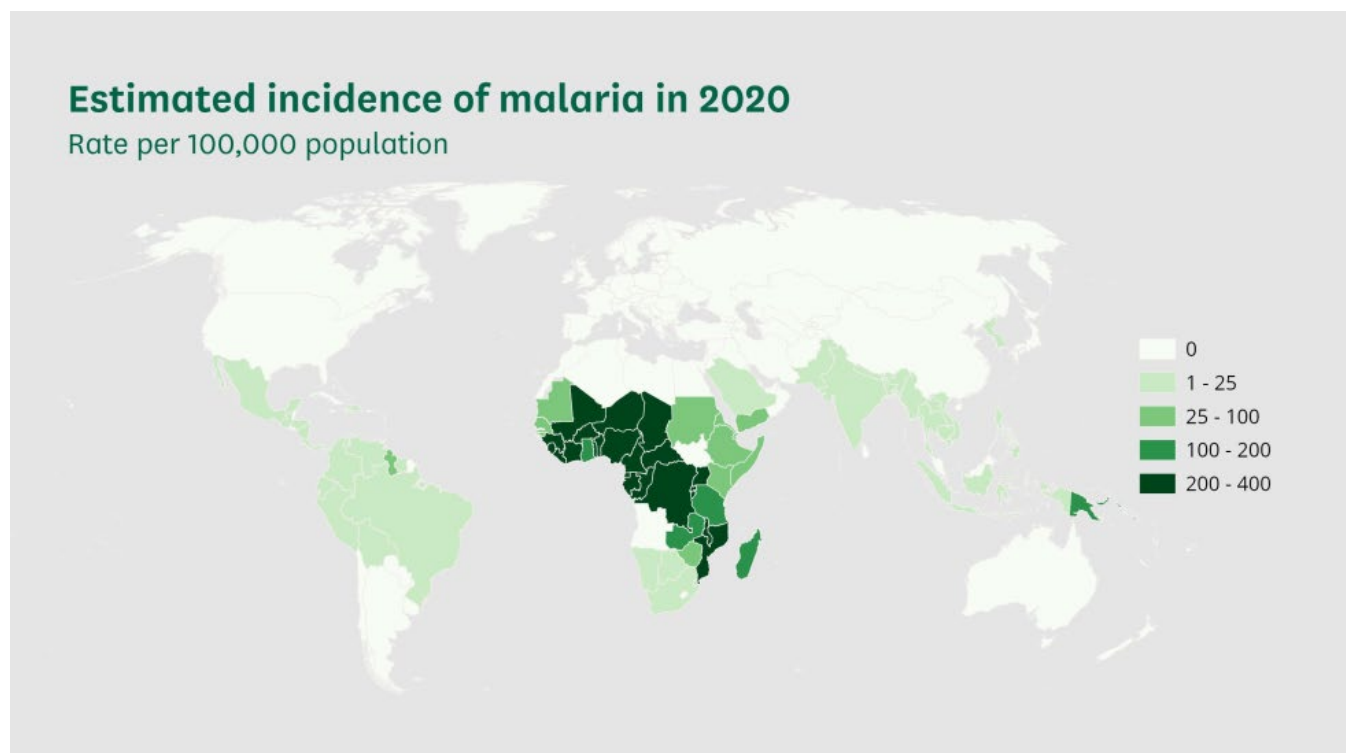
Historically malaria was prevalent in most parts of the world, and it has been estimated that up to around 1900 about half (53%) of the world's land surface was at risk from malaria.

Since then, the area where humans are at risk of malaria contracted to a quarter (27%). The disease has been eliminated in Europe, North America,

¹⁴ WHO, [Malaria](#), 26 July 2022

East Asia and Australia and in many parts of the Caribbean, South America, and Africa.¹⁵

The map below shows the incidence of malaria in 2020. The malaria incidence is highest in the central part of Africa, where incidence rates of over 200 per 100,000 population were observed. In four countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Mali – incidence rates exceeded 350 new cases per 100,000 population.



Source: WHO data accessed via [Malaria - Our World in Data](#)

Groups at particular risk include children, pregnant women, and patients with HIV/AIDS, and those with low immunity in areas with high levels of Malaria transmission.

Africa has 95% of malaria cases and 96% of deaths. Children under five represented 80% of all deaths in Africa.¹⁶

Six countries represented half of Malaria deaths in 2020: Nigeria (27%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12%), Uganda (5%), Mozambique (4%), Angola (3%) and Burkina Faso (3%).¹⁷

¹⁵ [Malaria - Our World in Data](#)

¹⁶ WHO, [Malaria](#), 26 July 2022

¹⁷ WHO, [World Malaria report 2021](#), December 2021, pxvi

2.4

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

Disruptions to health systems

The pandemic had a substantial impact on the functioning of health services worldwide, and the focus given to other diseases.

For example, a survey of essential health services in 129 countries by the WHO [found 90% reported some ongoing disruptions to these services from November to December 2021](#).¹⁸

Disruptions to HIV, TB and Malaria services

For a smaller group of countries, around half of 90 countries surveyed by the WHO reported continuing disruptions to TB diagnosis and treatment, to HIV testing services, and HIV prevention services. Around 38% of 53 surveyed countries also reported disruption to their Malaria surveillance.¹⁹

In 2022, the Global Fund said the pandemic caused the world to “go backwards” in progress on Malaria, TB and HIV. The latter two were most affected in 2020:

- HIV testing services fell 22% and prevention services by 11%.
- The number of people treated for drug-resistant TB fell 19%.
- Malaria testing fell 4%.²⁰

Rising number of TB and Malaria deaths in 2020

The WHO [said there were 14 million more cases of Malaria in 2020 compared to 2019, and 69,000 more deaths](#). It said two-thirds of these additional deaths were linked to Covid-19-related disruption to health services.²¹

The WHO also estimated that the number of deaths from TB among HIV-negative people increased by 100,000 to 1.3 million in 2020 and an additional 214,000 among HIV-positive people, up from 209,000 in 2019. This [took the number of deaths back to 2017 levels](#).²²

Trends in the number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths is unknown, but UNAIDS [projected the trend has been generally downward since](#)

¹⁸ WHO, [Third round of global pulse survey continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), February 2022

¹⁹ WHO, [Third round of global pulse survey continuity of essential health services during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), February 2022, p38

²⁰ The Global Fund, [Fight for what counts](#), 2022 (PDF), p6

²¹ WHO, [More Malaria cases and deaths in 2020 linked to Covid-19 disruptions](#), 6 December 2021

²² WHO, [Global TB report 2021](#), 14 October 2021, p1

2006.²³ Progress did slow, however, and in some regions progress was reversed. The number of new infections dropped 3.6% between 2020 and 2021: This was the smallest annual decline since 2016 and regions such as North Africa and Latin America [experienced increases](#).²⁴

Further reading on HIV, TB and Malaria

- WHO, [Global TB report 2022](#), 27 October 2022. Assessment of TB epidemic and progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment.
- Commons Library, [World TB day 2022](#), March 2022. Summary of progress on reducing the incidence of TB.
- WHO, [World Malaria report 2021](#), 6 December 2021. Data on progress.
- UNAIDS, [In danger: UNAIDS Global update 2022](#), 27 July 2022.

²³ UNAIDS, [UNAIDS data 2021](#), 29 November 2021, p8

²⁴ UNAIDS, [Millions of lives at risk as progress against AIDS falters](#), 27 July 2022

3 The effectiveness of the Global Fund

3.1 What does the Fund say it has achieved?

In its latest results report, the Global Fund says that from its establishment in 2002 to the end of 2021, its [funding, together with that of its partners, saved 50 million lives](#).²⁵

Access to key services

For the countries in which the Fund applies, by 2021 it had ensured 23.3 million people were on antiretroviral therapy for HIV, 5.3 million people had been treated for TB, and 133 million mosquito nets had been distributed.

The growing proportion of the population in countries supported by the Global Fund to access these key services is shown in the below table.²⁶

Note some progress was lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic: see section 2.4 above, pages 9 to 10.

Access to services in Global Fund-supported countries, 2000 to 2020					
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
% Living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy	0%	4%	23%	49%	72%
% TB treatment coverage	32%	40%	47%	54%	57%
% With access to treated nets*	3%	6%	30%	53%	50%

Notes: * This refers to a long-lasting insecticide treated net. Data for malaria nets relates to 38 countries for which data is available.

Source: Global Fund, [Result report 2022](#), accessed 25 October 2022

Deaths and cases

The Global Fund also reports progress in the countries in which it works on the number of cases and deaths from HIV/AIDS, and smaller progress on TB cases (down 5% from 2002 to 2020) and malaria cases (no change since 2002).

²⁵ Global Fund, [Results report 2022](#), accessed 25 October 2022

²⁶ As above

The Fund has been previously criticised for the proportion of its spending on TB, which has received a smaller amount of funding since 2002 (US\$8.9 billion) than HIV (US\$26.6 billion) or Malaria (US\$15.4 billion).²⁷

For future spending, the Global Fund has said it will increase the proportion of its funding for TB.²⁸

Cases and deaths of Malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB in Global Fund countries 2002-2020						
	2002	2005	2010	2015	2020	Change 2002-2021
Malaria						
Deaths	0.8m	0.8m	0.7m	0.6m	0.6m	-26%
Cases	239.6m	244.1m	242.3m	222.1m	239.7m	0%
Tuberculosis						
TB deaths (excluding HIV positive)	1.5m	1.4m	1.3m	1.2m	1.2m	-21%
New cases	8.7m	9.4m	9.4m	9.0m	8.6m	-5%
HIV/AIDS*						
AIDS-related deaths	1.8m	1.9m	1.2m	0.8m	0.6m (2021)	-70%
HIV Infections	2.6m	2.2m	1.9m	1.5m	1.1m (2021)	-54%

Note: * HIV/AIDS data to 2021.

Source: Global Fund, [Result report 2022](#), accessed 25 October 2022

²⁷ Devex, [Stop TB head: TB still the “Cinderella” in Global Fund disease split](#), 17 November 2021 and Global Fund and Global Fund, [Results report 2022](#), accessed 26 October 2022

²⁸ Global Fund, [Global Fund Board approves new strategy placing people and communities at center to lead fight \[...\]](#), November 2021

3.2

UK evaluations

Multilateral aid review, 2016

There have been no substantial published UK Government assessments of the Global Fund since the 2016 [multilateral aid review](#) (PDF), carried out by the Department for International Development (DFID).

The review concluded that the Fund was achieving “exceptional results” and said it had “very good” overlap with the UK’s aid objectives and “very good” levels of organisational strength. This meant it managed risk well, was transparent and accountable, and demonstrated good value for money.²⁹

This was the highest possible ranking in the review. The Fund was one of only three of the 38 reviewed bodies to receive these results.³⁰

Performance agreements with the Fund, 2016 and 2019

Following the 2016 review, the [UK set a performance agreement with the Fund](#). This set out specific commitments from the Global Fund to improve its performance, linked to UK funding. This covered ten areas and included payments by results in some areas such as malaria treatment and targeting at least 85% of its resources at low- and lower-middle income countries.³¹

In 2019, the Government said the Global Fund had “performed well against these priorities” and [so had released all performance payments](#).³²

A [new performance agreement was made in 2019](#). This required the Fund to make similar commitments, such as ensuring value for money and targeting countries most in need, but also requiring the Fund to mobilise private sector support.³³

The most recent statement on progress against this agreement, which relates to a £100 million performance payment, [was published in April 2022](#). This says the Fund’s next annual review will contain an assessment.³⁴

The UK will also draw up a performance agreement for the 2023-25 period.³⁵

²⁹ DFID, [Raising the standard: The Multilateral development review 2016](#) (PDF), 2016, p16

³⁰ As above, p17

³¹ DFID, [Performance Agreement: UK and the Global Fund](#), 17 September 2016

³² HLWS1641 [[The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#)], 1 July 2019

³³ DFID, [Global Fund Performance Agreement](#), 28 June 2019, p3

³⁴ FCDO Development Tracker, [UK investment in the Global Fund 2020-2022 \[...\] Business case and summary 205184](#), April 2022, pp35-6

³⁵ HCWS364 [[The Global Fund](#)], 14 November 2022

Business case for the 2020-22 Global Fund

In the business case for the UK contribution to the 2020-2022 fund, [the Government said the Fund had five “key strengths”](#) which made it an important organisation for UK efforts:

1. **A “proven ability” to deliver results.** It states the partnership has saved 32 million lives since 2002, and deaths caused by the three diseases have been reduced by 40% since 2002 in countries where the Global Fund invests.
2. **Effective at shaping markets.** Through being a major investor, the Fund is able to use its market power to drive down prices in a way that would not be achievable by a single donor acting alone.
3. **Reach and scale.** The Fund is the largest funder of programmes addressing the three diseases and was active in 124 countries in 2018.
4. **Strengthening health systems.** It spends around US\$1 billion annually in supporting health systems (eg training, infrastructure, data collection)
5. **Protecting global health security.** It supports more resilient health systems, more surveillance, and diagnostic capabilities.³⁶

Further analysis of the Fund’s effectiveness

The Center for Global Development has issued [several papers on the Global Fund’s effectiveness](#).

It has published [a series of questions to consider for the next replenishment of the Fund](#), including how effective it is at helping countries transition away from Global Fund support, integrates with existing in-country health systems, and can improve its evaluation process.³⁷

³⁶ FCDO Development Tracker, [UK investment in the Global Fund 2020-2022 \[...\] Business case and summary 205184](#), April 2022, pp7-9

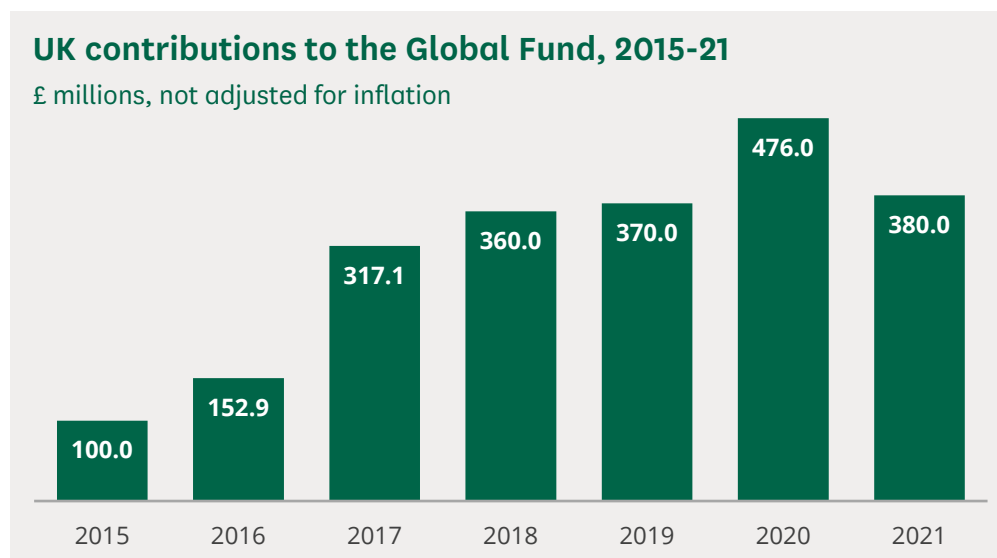
³⁷ Center for Global Development, [Where is the UK’s Global Fund commitment?](#), 22 September 2022

4 UK aid commitments to the Fund

4.1 Past spending

The Global Fund states the UK [has provided £4.43 billion from the creation of the Fund in 2002 to 20 July 2022](#), and is its third largest donor. UK funding included a pledge of £1.46 billion for the sixth replenishment (covering 2020 to 2022).³⁸

FCDO statistics show that £2,156 million was provided between 2015 and 2021 (the most recent year for which we have full data). This breaks down by year as shown in the chart below.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development](#), multiple editions.

Funding levels increased fairly steadily over most of this period, peaking at £476 million in 2020.

Of the up to £1.46 billion pledged for 2020-22, to September 2022 £1.176 billion has been disbursed (81%).³⁹

³⁸ The Global Fund, [Government and public donors: UK](#), accessed 25 October 2022

³⁹ PQ 51906 [[Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: Finance](#)], 29 September 2022

4.2

Funding for 2023 to 2025

Global Fund calls for US\$18 billion in 2022

In September 2022, the Global Fund launched its seventh replenishment for the period 2023 to 2025. It called for donors to pledge US\$18 billion.

It projects that overall resource need for HIV, TB and Malaria for 2024 to 2026 is US\$130 billion in the countries where the Fund invests. This is a 29% increase in the US\$101 billion estimate for 2021 to 2023.⁴⁰

Following the pledging conference in September, [the Fund said it raised more than US\\$14.3 billion](#). While the US, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, and Japan made pledges, neither the UK nor Italy did so at the conference. They instead committed to announcing their support in the “coming weeks.”⁴¹ The UK announced its pledge in November (see next page), as did Italy.

On 18 November, the Global Fund [said it raised US\\$15.7 billion](#) in total.⁴²

The conditionality of the US pledge

In March 2022, President Biden announced that the [US intended to pledge US\\$6 billion](#)—a third of the requested US\$18 billion.⁴³

Under US law, the United States cannot provide more than a third of the Fund’s total spending at any point during the fiscal year (the US fiscal year runs from October to September).⁴⁴ This means its pledge may be reduced if the US\$18 billion target is not met.

The first and last time this clause [was invoked was in 2004](#). Before the US funding was redirected, the Global Fund had an opportunity to raise additional funding from donors.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Global Fund, [Fight for what counts](#) (PDF), 2022, p15

⁴¹ The Global Fund, [Global Fund partners pledge record level of support to end deadly diseases, prevent future pandemics](#), 21 September 2022

⁴² The Global Fund, [Board hails record breaking seventh replenishment](#), 18 November 2022

⁴³ The Global Fund, [President Biden signals a \\$6 billion US pledge for the seventh replenishment \[...\]](#), 28 March 2022

⁴⁴ [US Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Act 2003](#), Section 202 (d) and Draft [State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, 2023](#), “HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment”,

⁴⁵ KFF, [The US and The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#), 9 September 2022 and Global Fund Observer, [US unlikely to contribute full Global Fund pledge; UK also disappoints Fund](#), 22 August 2004

The UK has pledged £1 billion for 2023-2025

On 14 November 2022, the UK Government announced it would [pledge £1 billion to the seventh replenishment](#).⁴⁶ The Global Fund [welcomed the commitment](#).⁴⁷

The UK's pledge compares to the £1.4 billion committed to the previous replenishment round.⁴⁸

The Government said that to ensure value for money and to meet UK aid objectives on global health security, gender, and human rights, it would draw up a performance agreement with the Fund to cover the 2023-25 period.⁴⁹

The FCDO has previously stated [the Fund has been “critical” in helping it deliver its manifesto commitment](#) to end the preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030.⁵⁰

In September, the Chair of the International Development Committee, Sarah Champion MP, [said it would not provide value for money if the government did not pledge £1.8 billion to the Fund](#) (a 30% increase from 2019 and in line with the Fund's expectations for donors).⁵¹

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases had also called for the FCDO to be “ambitious” in its pledge.⁵²

Parliamentarians and the Executive Director of the Global Fund, Peter Sands, have also noted that Commonwealth countries such as Nigeria [are significant beneficiaries of the Global Fund](#).⁵³

Responding to the November announcement, the NGO STOPAIDS said the UK's lower pledge [undermined international goals](#) to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.⁵⁴

⁴⁶ HCWS364 [[The Global Fund](#)], 14 November 2022

⁴⁷ The Global Fund, [Global Fund applauds UK pledge to seventh replenishment](#), 14 November 2022

⁴⁸ PQ 15746 [[Global Fund](#)], 20 June 2022

⁴⁹ HCWS364 [[The Global Fund](#)], 14 December 2022

⁵⁰ PQ 66995 [[Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria](#)], 24 October 2022

⁵¹ Sarah Champion MP in the Guardian, [The Global Fund has saved 50m lives. So why has the UK refused to make pledge?](#), 23 September 2022

⁵² APPG on Malaria and NTDs, [Tweet](#), 3 October 2022

⁵³ Lord Fowler and Lady Roslyn Morauta, [Commonwealth solidarity more important than ever in the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria](#), 23 October 2022; The Guardian, [Pledge aid or deprive Commonwealth's poorest in diseases fight, UK warned](#), 11 October 2022

⁵⁴ STOPAIDS, [STOPAIDS reaction to UK pledging £1 billion to the Global Fund](#), 14 November 2022

Global health and the UK's 2022 development strategy

In May 2022, the FCDO [published a new ten-year strategy for international development](#). This set out four priorities for UK aid, one of which is global health. Under this priority, UK aid will help:

- Invest in vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to reduce the impact of disease
- Build stronger health systems
- Make investments in organisations such as Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Global Fund.
- Help end the preventable deaths of mothers, babies, and children.⁵⁵

While the strategy states UK aid spending will be rebalanced from multilateral channels (which includes international organisations such as the World Bank) to bilateral ones (meaning funding will go directly to specific countries and programmes), the strategy describes the Global Fund as an “essential partner” to achieve its objectives.⁵⁶

Reductions in UK aid spending from 2021

Further context for the Government's decision [are the recent reductions in the UK's aid budget](#).⁵⁷

In November 2020, the UK Government said it would spend 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2021.

ODA refers to aid intended to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Such assistance must be reported to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

It was estimated that spending in 2021 will be £11.1 billion in 2021, down from £14.5 billion a year before. While the date at which the UK will restore aid spending from 0.5% to 0.7% of Gross National Income is uncertain, [the tests laid out by the Government suggest this will be in 2023/24, on March 2022 trends](#). The Treasury's fiscal statement in November 2022 is expected to provide an update.⁵⁸

The pledge for 2022-25 is drawn from existing aid allocations.⁵⁹

⁵⁵ Commons Library, [The UK's 2022 aid strategy](#), section 6.2

⁵⁶ As above, Section 8.1

⁵⁷ Commons library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), 6 November 2021

⁵⁸ Commons Library, [The 0.7% aid target](#), 25 March 2022

⁵⁹ HCWS364 [[The Global Fund](#)], 14 November 2022

Pause in the UK's non-essential aid spending, mid-2022

From July 2022, non-essential aid spending has also been paused by the FCDO in order to ensure that increased aid spending due to the war in Ukraine and the costs of resettling refugees from Afghanistan or other countries does not push the aid budget above 0.5% of GNI in 2022.⁶⁰

In October, the International Development Minister, Andrew Mitchell, said the pause would be extended [until the Treasury's Autumn statement on 17 November 2022](#) (PDF). He says this will allow discussions with the Treasury on how to manage the ODA budget and that ending the pause his "priority."⁶¹

Exemptions that remain in place include for spending that protects against immediate threats to life and wellbeing and prevents people falling into humanitarian need.⁶²

In evidence to the International Development Committee in October, the Permanent Under-Secretary, FCDO, Sir Philip Barton said he "very much hope[d]" the forthcoming fiscal statement, due on 17 November 2022, would allow the FCDO have a set aid [budget that "means we no longer have a pause and are not applying the criteria."](#)⁶³

Further reading on UK aid, health and disease

- House of Lords Library, [How have cuts to overseas aid affected the control of malaria and other diseases?](#), 1 July 2022. Description of UK efforts on malaria and tropical diseases and policy announcements.
- House of Commons Library, [UK response to Covid-19: International aid and diplomacy](#), 27 July 2021. Section 1 provides data on UK aid spending on global health.

⁶⁰ FT, [UK Treasury blocks "non-essential" overseas aid payments](#), 24 July 2022

⁶¹ [Minister for Development to the International Development Committee](#), 31 October 2022 (PDF)

⁶² [Minister for Development to the International Development Committee](#), 17 October 2022 (PDF)

⁶³ International Development Committee, [Oral evidence: FCDO annual report and accounts](#), HC765, 18 October 2022, Qs33, 34

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