



MEDIA RELEASE

RESULTS International (Australia)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Millions of lives now in the balance due to funding shortfall for AIDS, TB and Malaria

The Gillard Government's \$210 million pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a large percentage increase on Australia's previous commitment, but falls well short of the investment required to win the war on these three diseases.

Grassroots anti poverty group RESULTS was part of a global partnership calling for donor countries to commit a total \$22 billion over the next three years to the Global Fund to ensure it could meet the demand for its funding. Australia's fair share of that total is \$500 million.

RESULTS National Manager, Maree Nutt said, "This sends a mixed message to the Australian community about our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals on poverty by 2015."

The Global Fund has helped save 5.7 million lives in only 8 years of operation. "The 55% increase in Australia's pledge is a sign of confidence in the great work of the Global Fund," she added.

"It is however imperative to see this commitment supplemented once the Gillard Government settles down to business. Australia's position following the financial crisis, and the commitment by both major parties to significantly increase total aid by 2015 are two strong reasons why we should expect more."

Australia's lower than expected contribution, along with some disappointing announcements from other countries, will result in a total funding shortfall of around \$8 billion. If not supplemented within the next three years, this shortfall will mean at least 3.1 million people in need of life saving HIV treatment and more than 2.9 million in need of TB treatment. More than 490,000 mothers will not be provided with the treatment to prevent transmission of HIV to their newborns. A fully funded Global Fund could virtually halt mother to child transmission of HIV by 2015.

Boosting Australia's commitment to \$500 million alone could result in an additional 150,000 lives saved from AIDS, TB and malaria.

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