



MEDIA RELEASE

RESULTS International (Australia)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Fund Forced to Cancel Funding Round, Jeopardising Health of Millions

JUST as the global community begins to talk seriously about the end of AIDS in our lifetime, comes the disturbing news that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, one of the single largest funders of AIDS programs worldwide, has effectively cancelled its next round of grants due to insufficient funds.

The decision comes as a consequence of most European donor governments' failure to fulfill their pledges to the Fund, and has the potential to reverse the precious progress made in the fight against AIDS, as well as TB and malaria.

"The goal of achieving an 'AIDS-free generation' has been dealt a huge blow by this disappointing decision that the Global Fund has been compelled to make," says Maree Nutt, National Manager of anti-poverty advocacy group, RESULTS International (Australia).

"People in poor countries will die unnecessarily from curable diseases as a consequence of this funding suddenly evaporating. The ensuing drug shortages will almost certainly also give rise to drug-resistant strains of TB," Ms Nutt added.

The Australian Government is considered a strong supporter of the Global Fund and is not at risk of defaulting on its three-year commitment of \$210 million to 2013.

RESULTS is calling on the Government to not only deliver this commitment sooner rather than later, but should also consider increasing its support significantly, sending a strong signal to other donors of its confidence in the critical role of the Global Fund to deliver the end AIDS in our lifetime.

Australia is also well placed within the G20 to exert its muscle and encourage emerging economies to invest strongly in the work of the Global Fund.

"Winning the war against AIDS could be our greatest achievement this century," Ms Nutt added.

"All donors need to match their purses with their rhetoric because without urgent action, we are in danger of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory."

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The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a public-private partnership, created to dramatically increase resources to fight three of the world's most devastating diseases, and to direct those resources to areas of greatest need. Since its inception in 2002, 7.7 million lives have been saved through Global Fund Supported programs.

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