

results

Australia's role in the fight to end tuberculosis



Image source: The Global Fund

In partnership with



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Foreword

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the fight against tuberculosis (TB). While COVID-19 surpassed TB as the world's leading infectious disease killer in 2020, an estimated 1.5 million people died from TB that year, an increase for the first time in more than a decade.

COVID-19 has disrupted health services, restricted access to adequate care, and reduced TB testing rates. This impact has been felt acutely in our own region, the Indo-Pacific, where the majority of the global TB burden lies.

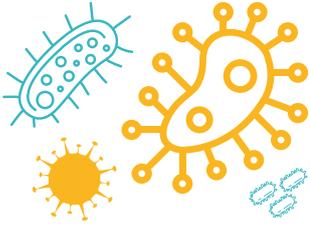
This is why we must invest in resilient systems to coordinate and resource the fight against TB. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) is a ready-made mechanism with a proven track record, having saved an estimated 44 million lives since 2002. It provides over three-quarters of all international financing for TB, and in countries where the Global Fund invests, TB deaths have decreased.

This year marks the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment effort, a moment for the world to take action so the Global Fund can continue its critical, lifesaving work. To help get back on track to end TB, HIV, malaria, and strengthen pandemic preparedness, the Global Fund needs at least US\$18 billion.

Australia has long led the way in funding the fight against preventable diseases such as TB. Results Australia are calling on the Australian Government to continue this tradition by contributing at least a further \$450 million to the Global Fund this year. Together, we can end TB in our lifetime.

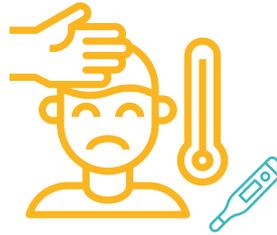
Negaya Chorley, CEO Results Australia

Tuberculosis



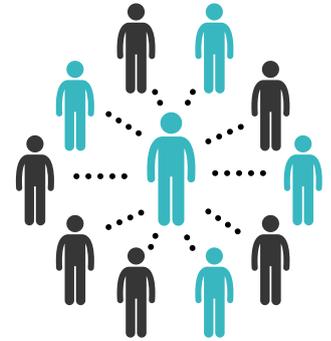
TB is an air-borne infectious disease, caused by the Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria

Symptoms include:



weight loss, loss of appetite, night sweats, fever, fatigue, chills, coughing, and chest pain

A person with TB can be expected to infect **5 to 15** people a year



Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)

MDR-TB is when the bacteria causing disease is resistant to the drugs traditionally used to treat TB.



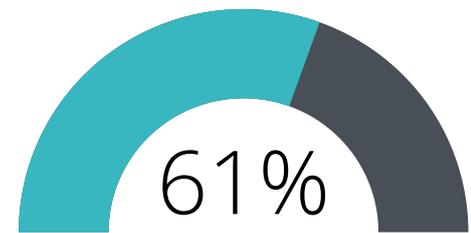
MDR-TB is spread the same way as non MDR-TB and has the same symptoms.

2
0
2
0

1.5 million
people died
from TB

1 in 3
people

with MDR-TB
accessed
treatment



of the global TB burden is
in our region

Spending in 2020 amounted to

US \$5.3 billion

less than half (41%) of the global target

10 million

people fell ill
with TB

including **1.1 million children**

The Global Fund

The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as epidemics. The Fund mobilises and invests more than **US\$4 billion** a year to support programs run by local experts in over 100 countries.



In partnership with governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, they are challenging barriers and embracing innovation.

provides

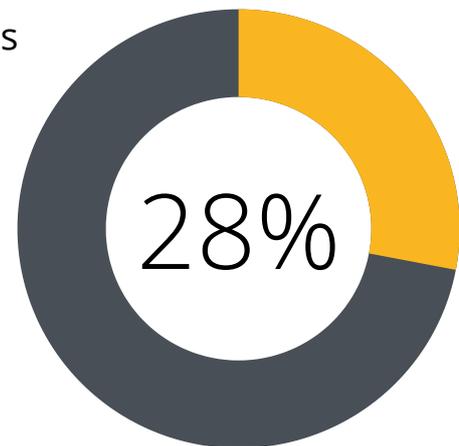


of all international financing for TB and has invested

US \$7.8 billion

in programs to prevent and treat TB as of June 2021

In countries where the Global Fund invests, TB deaths (excluding HIV-positive deaths) have been **reduced by:**



Over the last two decades, the Global Fund has invested a total of:

US \$10.2 billion in the Indo-Pacific region*

For every US dollar contributed by the Australian Government the Global Fund partnership has invested approximately

US\$13 in the Indo-Pacific region.*



**As of March 2022. Indo-Pacific region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Laos PDR, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.*

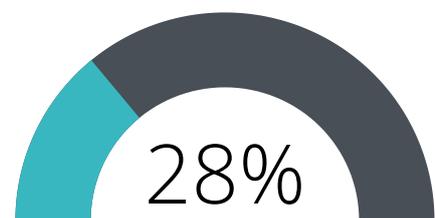
The moment we are in

20 years of hard-fought progress

An estimated 66 million lives have been saved through TB diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2020

This progress would not have been possible if not for the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, which provides 77% of worldwide funding in the fight to eliminate this devastating disease. Thanks to the cooperation and support of nations across the world, the Global Fund had invested US\$7.8 billion into TB programs as of June 2021—an investment that has produced truly remarkable results.

In countries where the Global Fund invests, TB deaths have decreased by:



Without this vital support, they would have increased by a catastrophic 118%.

And yet, in 2020, 1.5 million people still died from TB, and 10 million people were ravaged by the disease, including 1.1 million children. These are distressing numbers for a preventable, treatable, and curable disease, but by 2030, with the generous support and continued investment of countries like Australia, those numbers could be almost completely reduced.

A world free of TB is possible within our lifetime.

Setbacks and challenges

Unfortunately, worldwide efforts to combat TB have faced major setbacks as a result of COVID-19, which surpassed TB as the leading cause of death by an infectious disease in 2020. The pandemic has caused a massive redistribution of funding, supplies, and expertise away from TB, **reversing 12 years of global progress against TB in just 12 months.**

Between 2019 and 2020, there was an increase in TB deaths for the first time since 2005, and the number of people being treated for TB fell by over one million.

But pandemics do not operate in a vacuum—they feed off the inequities created by each other, creating devastating cycles of illness and economic impact at home and abroad. While the battle against COVID-19 is crucial, it must walk hand in hand with efforts to combat TB and other infectious diseases.

Climate change is also impacting the spread of pandemics. Extreme weather events can displace large numbers of people, forcing them into cramped living conditions, and greatly heightening the risk of transmission. Extreme weather also interrupts routine healthcare services, limiting access to preventative TB treatments and leading to an increase in TB risk factors, such as diabetes, HIV, and malnutrition.

The world at a crossroads

Building international consensus

Despite the progress made in combating TB and reaching the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of ending "AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases" by 2030, a recent report has concluded that "the current pace is not fast enough to meet the target".



The coordinated international effort to end TB and the continuation of the work spearheaded by the Global Fund for over two decades has never been more important.

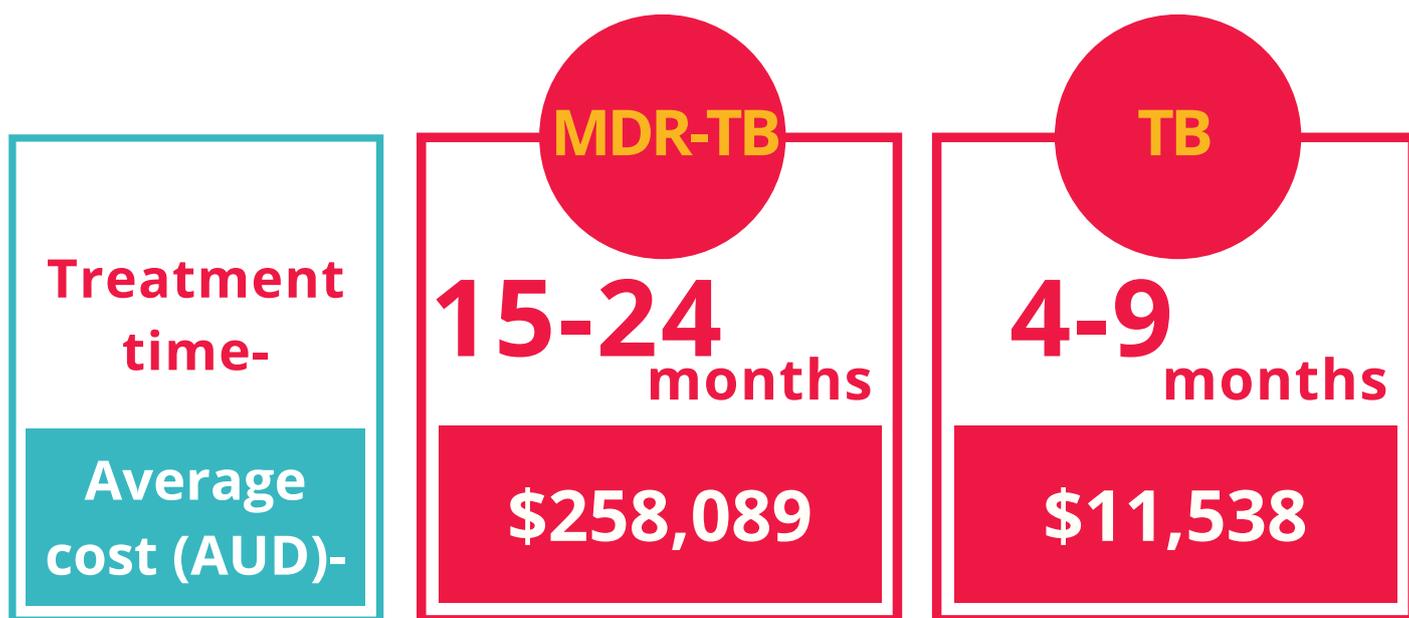
Like COVID, TB won't end for us until it ends for everyone



61%

The majority of the world's TB burden is in our region

Although Australia has low rates of TB, our closest neighbours in the Indo-Pacific region suffer from some of the highest rates of the disease in the world. The burden of TB predominantly falls on three regions, with approximately **43% of TB cases located in South-East Asia, 25% in Africa, and 18% in the Western Pacific**. Australia's closest neighbor, Papua New Guinea, has a significant TB burden with one of the highest rates of multidrug resistant TB in the world. Although MDR-TB is treatable, it costs approximately 22 times the amount it costs to treat drug susceptible TB in Australia.



COVID-19 is a frightening reminder that diseases do not respect borders and that even island nations are not immune. The replenishment of the Global Fund and further investment in this crucial global health initiative is essential to protect our neighbours and regional partners from the devastation of TB and end this disease for good.

Investing in resilient systems for global health

The Global Fund has always been grounded in a sustainable approach to disease elimination, with a heavy emphasis on investing in and developing durable and resilient health systems. With COVID-19 demonstrating that additional funding and a stronger focus on adaptability is needed, the Global Fund has adopted a new strategy focused on “fighting pandemics and building a healthier and more equitable world”. They aim to do this by investing in HIV, TB, and malaria interventions, as well as pandemic preparedness, to allow communities to fight the diseases being targeted as well as new ones that may emerge.

The Global Fund provides

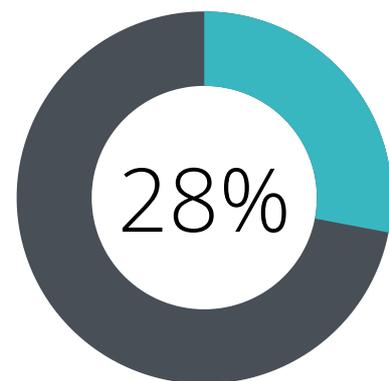


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The Global Fund and COVID-19

The Global Fund was extremely well situated to respond to COVID-19, as it already had well-established networks and expertise. **The Global Fund has contributed US\$4.1 billion to the COVID-19 response**, including US\$700 million in the Indo-Pacific region, to support countries in their response to the pandemic. Although the current Global Fund replenishment cycle is focused on the fight against TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria, it will continue to indirectly support the COVID-19 response by integrating pandemic preparedness into its work on the three diseases to increase the strength and resilience of health systems across the world.

Australia has so far pledged over

\$1 billion



to the Global Fund, supporting vital work in eliminating TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria

Australia's Impact

Australia can be proud of its contributions to the Global Fund, having so far pledged over \$1 billion to support its vital work in eliminating TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria. However, if the Global Fund is to reverse the impacts of COVID-19 on the diseases as well as invest in pandemic preparedness, **we must contribute at least \$450 million to the Seventh Replenishment cycle in 2022**. By doing so, we are saving lives and helping to protect the world from deadly diseases.

The Path Forward

The cost of inaction and the price of progress

Funding for TB services fell by 8.7% in 2020 to just US\$5.3 billion, a massive shortfall that was only 41% of the global funding target

The effects of this shortfall can be seen as an increase in TB deaths, a decrease in TB cases reported, and a decline in preventative therapy are just a few of the key indicators that regressed. It is expected that for each missed case of active TB, between 5 and 15 additional people will become infected each year.

To get the world back on track to beat TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria, the Global Fund needs at least US\$18 billion. According to the Global Fund, this would allow it to:

Save **20 million lives** between 2024 and 2026, reducing the mortality rate by



Reduce the death toll across the three diseases to

950,000

in 2026, down from 2.4 million in 2020, and from 4 million in 2005

Avert more than **450 million infections** or cases between 2024 and 2026, reducing the incidence rate by **58%** across the three diseases by 2026



Additionally, a US\$18 billion investment in the Global Fund would accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 and universal health coverage and strengthen pandemic preparedness by:



Reinforcing systems for health and pandemic preparedness through investing approximately **US\$6 billion to support** health care workers; strengthen laboratories, diagnostic tools, supply chain management, and information and financial systems; tackle antimicrobial resistance, including drug-resistant TB; reinforce community systems; and accelerate the shift toward patient-centered, differentiated models of care.



Catalysing scale-up of domestic investment of up to **US\$59 billion** toward ending the three diseases and strengthening systems for health through co-financing requirements and technical assistance on health funding.



Reducing inequities in health services by addressing gender-related and human rights barriers to access, and working with partners, including civil society and affected communities, to build more inclusive health systems that leave no one behind.

Yielding a return on investment of 1:31:

Every dollar invested in fighting the three diseases results in **US\$31** in health gains and economic returns, further contributing to the achievement of the overall SDG agenda.



The Opportunity Ahead

The END TB Strategy has mapped out our way forward to beat this disease. Investing in the Global Fund, a ready-made mechanism with a proven track record, is critical to achieving these outcomes.

We know now, more than ever, that our economy, our livelihoods, and our way of life are not protected in the face of poor regional and global health.

90%
reduction in the
absolute number of TB
deaths by

2030

No one is safe from TB until every one is safe

Progress against the disease is being lost, and Australia, alongside the world, must fully invest in the Global Fund in order to close the gaps, get back on track and protect our hardfought gains.

The good news is that we have the tools we need to fight and beat it. What we now need is global commitment, economic support, and the guidance of the Global Fund and its extensive expertise and networks to lead us in this battle.

Australia has long led the way in funding the fight against preventable diseases such as TB. We are calling on the Australian Government to continue this proud tradition, **to support a flourishing and healthy future for our region, and to invest at least a further \$450 million to the Global Fund at the Seventh Replenishment Conference in the United States this year.**

Together, we can end TB and save lives