

**Fiscal Year 2021 Written Testimony Submitted by Chris Collins, President,  
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

**Prepared for the United States House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and Related Programs**

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and the full subcommittee, for your steadfast support of America's leadership in the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. The U.S. investment you have championed has saved millions of lives and has brought the end of these most deadly epidemics within reach. Your bold support of an increase in fiscal year 2020—for the first time in six years—for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) helped spur the world to step up the fight. Today I am writing specifically to request sustained U.S. support of the Global Fund at \$1.56 billion.

**Proven Lifesaving Impact**

What does the U.S. investment, combined with other donor support and funds from implementing countries, yield? Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved over 32 million lives. This achievement includes a remarkable 56 percent decline in AIDS-related deaths, a 22 percent decline in TB deaths, and a 46 percent decline in malaria deaths since 2002, in countries where the Global Fund operates. In countries and regions where the Global Fund invests, 18.9 million people were on antiretroviral therapy for HIV, 5.3 million people with TB received treatment and 131 million mosquito nets were distributed in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

Now that the Global Fund has achieved its three-year Replenishment fundraising goal of \$14 billion, it is on track to save an additional 16 million lives; cut the number of deaths from AIDS, TB and malaria by nearly half; and prevent 234 million infections.<sup>2</sup>

By 2023<sup>3</sup>, the Global Fund and its partners will achieve a projected:

- 61 percent decline in new HIV infections, from 1.5 million to 565,000.
- 52 percent decline in AIDS-related deaths, from 866,000 to 413,000.
- 22 percent decline in new TB cases, from 8.7 million to 6.8 million.
- 46 percent decline in TB deaths (excluding HIV-positive people), from 1.2 million to 648,000.
- 1.7 billion mosquito nets distributed to combat malaria.
- Elimination of malaria in an additional five countries.

The Global Fund also plays a consequential role in economic growth, yielding healthier workers increasing the number of consumers for U.S. exports, and growing trade partners abroad—all

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "2019 Results Report." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8752/corporate\\_2019resultsreport\\_report\\_en.pdf?u=637146355110000000](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8752/corporate_2019resultsreport_report_en.pdf?u=637146355110000000) and <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/impact/>

<sup>2</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "Step Up the Fight Investment Case 2019." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication\\_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase\\_summary\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase_summary_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "Step Up the Fight Investment Case 2019." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8279/publication\\_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8279/publication_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase_report_en.pdf)

directly benefiting the American people. The Global Fund projects that it will spur \$19 in economic returns and health gains for every \$1 invested.<sup>4</sup> These results contribute to direct economic benefits for the U.S. Eleven of the top 15 U.S. export markets are countries that are former U.S. aid recipients.<sup>5</sup>

## **Leveraging Other Donors and Domestic Investments**

By law, the U.S. can only contribute up to 33 percent of the Global Fund's budget. For every dollar the U.S. contributes, the Global Fund must secure two dollars from other donors, or risk leaving U.S. money on the table.<sup>6</sup> The 15.6 percent increase from the U.S. last year encouraged other major donors to increase their support, including a 20 percent increase from France, 17.6 percent from Germany, as well as 15 to 16 percent each from the United Kingdom, the European Commission, Canada, and Italy, just to name a few. The Global Fund won \$1 billion in pledges from the private sector as well, a new high.<sup>7</sup>

The U.S. contribution also catalyzes increased domestic investments in affected countries. In order to receive their full allocation from the Global Fund, countries must increase domestic spending on health, such as programs related to HIV, TB and malaria. If these commitments are not met, a portion of the money is withheld until they are. This co-financing mechanism works. The Global Fund projects implementing countries will increase their domestic health investments by 48 percent from 2021 to 2023.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the Global Fund has played a part in encouraging countries like India and Indonesia to step up their own efforts to combat TB.<sup>9</sup>

## **Benefits of Global Fund Investment**

*Amplifying the Impact of Bilateral Programs.* Among several additional benefits of investment in the Global Fund, foremost is extending the reach of the invaluable U.S. bilateral global health programs. These include the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), and the USAID TB program. We encourage increased appropriations for these programs. Through collaboration and strategies tailored to each country, U.S. bilateral programs and the Global Fund work to maximize the impact of U.S. investments in global health.

For instance, the Global Fund is amplifying PEPFAR's consequential DREAMS program, increasing its own investments in programs that support adolescent girls and young women in 13 priority countries by 24 percent for the 2020-2022 allocation compared to the previous cycle, with a total investment of \$3.26 billion.<sup>10</sup> PMI only works in countries where the Global Fund offers financing, is actively integrating its supply chains with the Global Fund's and pooling

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<sup>4</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "Step Up the Fight Investment Case 2019." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication\\_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase\\_summary\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase_summary_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> USAID, 2017. "USAID Key Accomplishments." <https://www.usaid.gov/reports-and-data/key-accomplishments>

<sup>6</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019. "The U.S. & The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria." <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-the-global-fund-to-fight-aids-tuberculosis-and-malaria/>

<sup>7</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/updates/other-updates/2019-10-11-sixth-replenishment-conference-pledges/>

<sup>8</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "Step Up the Fight Investment Case 2019." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication\\_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase\\_summary\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8174/publication_sixthreplenishmentinvestmentcase_summary_en.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> "World Tuberculosis Report 2019." [https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/)

<sup>10</sup> The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. 2019. "Overview of the 2020-2022 Allocations and Catalytic Investments." [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/9225/fundingmodel\\_2020-2022allocations\\_overview\\_en.pdf?u=63712277545000000](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/9225/fundingmodel_2020-2022allocations_overview_en.pdf?u=63712277545000000)

data, harmonizing financial cost categories. More generally, the Global Fund adds value to U.S. bilateral programs by making long-term country-ownership more viable. The Global Fund requires disease-affected populations, civil society, faith, and private sector voices to be included in local implementation and on its own board.

*Improving Governance.* Along with giving voice to stakeholders, the Global Fund advances better and more democratic governance in countries with which it partners. Last year Georgetown University published a study establishing that Global Fund support improves government accountability, control of corruption, political freedoms, regulatory quality, and rule of law.<sup>11</sup> Better governance advances regional stability and security, economic freedoms, growing prosperity, and more vital trading partners. Moreover, the Global Fund helps fragile states, such as Bangladesh, which face flaring epidemics of HIV and TB. The Global Fund's catalytic funding supports innovative programs to detect cases of TB that would otherwise go untreated in fragile states.

*Strengthening Health Security.* The outbreak of COVID-19 is the latest example of surging pandemics threatening the safety of the world and our own country. Pandemics know no borders. When Ebola emerged in West Africa in 2014-2015, those countries partnering with the Global Fund on malaria were better prepared to confront a new epidemic.<sup>12</sup> The Global Fund makes a significant contribution to global health security by helping to spur the development of more resilient health infrastructures, with stronger surveillance, diagnostic and emergency response capabilities and by directly tackling key threats to global health security, such as multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). MDR-TB has the same mortality rate as Ebola, but it is more contagious and threatens the lives of over 400,000 people annually, compared to the 1,000 who contracted Ebola in 2017.<sup>13</sup>

## New Challenges

Despite its lifesaving achievements, and its economic, governance, and health security benefits, the Global Fund and its partners face significant challenges:

- Mosquitos are developing resistance to the most common insecticides. Continued progress toward ending the malaria epidemic requires innovation and dissemination of next-generation long-lasting malaria bed nets for vulnerable families and children.
- 2.6 million people per year are projected to die from antibiotic-resistant TB by 2050, costing the global economy an estimated \$16.7 trillion.
- Around the world, nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women are infected with HIV every day, and in some of the hardest hit areas of southern African, young women are six times more likely to be HIV positive than young men.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Matthew M. Kavanagh and Lixue Chen, 2019. "Governance and Health Aid from the Global Fund: Effects Beyond Fighting Disease," *Annals of Global Health*. <https://agh.ubiquitypress.com/articles/10.5334/aogh.2505/>

<http://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/thematic-areas/beyond-fighting-disease-effects-of-aid-from-the-global-fund-on-governance-and-development/>

<sup>12</sup>The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, 2019. "Focus on Global Health Security."

[https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/7318/publication\\_globalhealthsecurity\\_focuson\\_en.pdf?u=637146788050000000](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/7318/publication_globalhealthsecurity_focuson_en.pdf?u=637146788050000000)

<sup>13</sup> Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, 2019. "MDR-TB: A Major Global Health Threat." <https://www.theglobalfight.org/mdr-tb-a-major-global-health-threat/>

<sup>14</sup> Friend of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, 2020. "The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: A Smart, Lifesaving U.S. Investment in 2020." <https://www.theglobalfight.org/2020-investment-case/>

- Because over 40 percent of Africa’s population is under the age of 15, it is imperative to scale up HIV prevention and treatment interventions to reach vulnerable youth.<sup>15</sup>

## Conclusion

Along with more robust funding for the overall U.S. international assistance budget (the 150 Account), for global health assistance generally, and the three U.S. bilateral programs, Friends asks for the following:

- Maintaining funding for the Global Fund at \$1.56 billion in FY21, as a second installment in the Sixth Replenishment;
- Maintaining the U.S. share of funding to the Global Fund at 33 percent, continuing to reject the Administration’s proposal to amend the longstanding matching rates for U.S. contributions to the Global Fund; and
- Ensuring the full amount of the previously appropriated \$1,560,000,000 FY20 funding and the FY21 funding is used toward the Global Fund’s 2020-2022 grant cycle.

Sustaining \$1.56 billion in annual funding to the Global Fund enables<sup>16</sup>:

- 2.96 million people to receive antiretroviral therapy.
- 312,000 women to receive treatment to prevent HIV transmissions to their babies.
- 2.1 million people to receive TB care and treatment.
- 107,640 people to receive treatment for multidrug-resistant TB.
- 82.68 million mosquito nets to be distributed to protect children and families from malaria.
- 8.81 million households to receive indoor residual spraying to prevent malaria.

That is real value for money. Thank you again for your staunch commitment to ending the AIDS, TB and malaria epidemics and to saving lives around the world.

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<sup>15</sup> United Nations. 2017. “World Population Prospects.” [https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017\\_DataBooklet.pdf](https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_DataBooklet.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, 2020. “Infographic: What does \$1.56 billion buy?” <https://www.theglobalfight.org/infographic-what-does-1-56-billion-buy/>