

The Global Fund Saves Lives: Why continuing to finance the Global Fund matters

RESULTS
the power to end poverty

Introduction

The Global Fund has cited dramatic progress in the fight against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB). Guided by its principle of performance-based funding, Global Fund supported programmes have consistently demonstrated successes and real-life impact. As a direct result of Global Fund interventions, 5.7 million lives have been saved since its creation. This is roughly equal to 4,000 lives saved every day. The following are just a few examples of success stories from around the world.

An Oasis of Care for HIV-Positive Patients in Peru

Approximately 33 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, the vast majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries. An estimated two million people die from HIV/AIDS every year. HIV/AIDS overwhelms healthcare systems, obstructs educational development and hinders agricultural production. It is estimated that half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing a decrease in growth per capita as a direct result of AIDS.

In the heart of Lima, Peru, Italian priest Father Zeffirino Montin has created much more than a treatment centre, he's created a 'hogar' or home. Hogar San Camilo is an oasis of care for HIV-positive parents and their children where they receive counselling, treatment and sustenance in a community environment.

"Health is not just having medical or technical experience," says the Italian priest, "Health is being able to feel that your own life is developing. The HIV discourse, the life discourse is very important."

What started as a community centre has become a place where people can also receive treatment. In 2004 with Global Fund support the centre started to offer antiretroviral treatment. Today more than 1,200 families with at least one HIV-positive family member receive help from the hogar and the waiting list is long. Baby-sitting services are on offer while parents attend therapy sessions and there are toys and a playground for children to enjoy.

Father Montin would also like to be able to treat HIV positive children: "We already provide medical health care, counselling and other activities for kids with HIV, wouldn't it be more convenient and effective to keep families together not only during counselling but during treatment as well?"

Health Centres in Zambia Empty of Malaria Patients

Malaria causes nearly one million deaths worldwide every year, mostly among children under five years of age. An additional 189 to 327 million people are infected with malaria annually. Malaria especially affects the marginalized and poor who cannot afford treatment or whose access to healthcare is limited. Malaria prevents children from attending school and reduces workplace attendance, trapping families and communities in a downward spiral of poverty. According to the Global Fund, families affected by malaria clear 60 percent fewer

crops than families not affected by the disease. It further estimates that malaria has cost Africa more than US \$12 billion in lost GDP every year, while fighting malaria would cost only a fraction of that amount.

The Kafirera family used to be regular visitors at the Mombe Health Centre in Zambia. The mother would bring her children in so often with malaria that when they stopped coming, the clinic went to check on them to see if they were OK. They're fine – they just don't get malaria any more.

In Zambia, cases of deaths from malaria have fallen by two-thirds. These results are due to the work of clinical staff like Ignacious Bulongo, who runs the Mombe Health Centre.

Last September Bulongo and his colleagues organized the distribution of bed nets to 6,000 houses in the community, as well as spraying them with mosquito repellent known as RDT. The results have been staggering; hardly anyone shows up at the clinic with malaria.

“After the intervention they have stopped coming to the health centre and we've made a follow-up. We've gone to visit them. They are healthy. We are just monitoring if they need to be given more mosquito nets in future,” says Bulongo.

Sweet Progress for TB Patients in Peru

More than 2 billion people, roughly one third of the world's population, are infected with TB. Approximately 1.8 million people die from the disease every year, equal to about 4,800 deaths a day. TB disproportionately affects the poorest people in the poorest countries. Three in four people (75 percent) suffering from TB are in their economically most productive years, aged 15 to 54. The Global Fund estimates that a person infected with TB loses 20 to 30 percent of annual household income due to the illness.

In Peru, Rosario Aquino gives melted chocolate a final stir before pouring the molten liquid into moulds to cool and set. She won't eat the chocolates herself – they're her livelihood.

Rosario is a TB patient who started a micro business making and selling 'chocotejas' – a chocolate-covered caramel popular in Lima. She's one of hundreds of 'grandes empresarios' or entrepreneurs who have been given help in starting a micro-business to regain their health and their self-reliance.

The grandes empresarios of Lima are people with limited access to income through formal employment. Microloans through the Global Fund provide the seed capital for collectives to get started in a small business, allowing patients to remain independent in the face of adversity. Microloans help put food on the table and get people going again after being infected with TB.

Rosario, who uses a wheelchair, smiles at every opportunity and counts her blessings. “It has changed my life. I was so sick I could barely move. I had no money to buy food. Nothing. My friends and I can make 50 percent in profits and can put some food on our tables. We have learned that if we eat well we can fight TB better. I am lucky, I am blessed,” she says, smiling.

These are just a few of the many stories reported on the Global Fund's [website](#) under its section: 'Saving Lives: Stories from the fight.'