



Policy brief

‘SANTÉ MONDIALE 2030’  
CALLS ON FRANCE  
TO SUPPORT  
THE GLOBAL FUND  
REPLENISHMENT

09 APRIL 2025

The *Santé mondiale 2030* think tank on global health was launched in 2016. It brings together a number of key actors in global health in France: Sana de Courcelles, François Dabis, Annabel Desgrées du Loû, Jean-François Delfraissy, Eric Fleutelot, Frédéric Goyet, Michel Kazatchkine, Marie-Paule Kieny, Mathieu Lamiaux, Lelio Marmora, Benoît Miribel, Olivier Nay, Luis Pizarro, Amélie Schmitt, Agnès Soucat, and Stéphanie Tchiombiano. Jessica Borges serves as coordinator.

***The members of the group are acting in their individual capacity and not on behalf of their respective organisations. The present document is the result of a collective work within the group. It does not commit or reflect the individual opinions of any of the members.***

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has launched its eighth replenishment campaign for the 2026-2028 triennium, amidst a highly uncertain context of geopolitical tensions and increasing questioning of official development assistance (ODA) financing worldwide.

## THE GLOBAL FUND IS AN ESSENTIAL MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENT TO FIGHT THE THREE PANDEMICS

Created in 2002 following Kofi Annan's call for international solidarity to fight AIDS, the Global Fund is the primary multilateral fund supporting low-income countries' programmes against the three pandemics. France played a key role in its creation and has remained one of its main donors over the past two decades.

The joint funding from the Global Fund and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has helped transform the global landscape of the fight against AIDS. Today, 77% of people living with HIV – 30.7 million – have access to antiretroviral treatment<sup>1</sup>. The annual number of new HIV infections has decreased by 40% over the last two decades<sup>2</sup>. The Global Fund accounts for 76% of international funding for tuberculosis programmes<sup>3</sup> and is the leading financier of costly treatments for multi-drug-resistant forms of the disease in low-income countries. The Global Fund provides 62% of international funding for malaria programmes<sup>4</sup>, enabling countries to purchase impregnated bed nets, treatments, and prophylaxis for pregnant women and children. More than 70% of the Global Fund's financing benefits African countries<sup>5</sup>.

The Global Fund's Board has an original governance model in the multilateral landscape, with equal representation from donor and implementing countries, ensuring that representatives of governments, civil society and the private sector have equal decision-making rights. Furthermore, the management and oversight of the Fund's finances are robust and in line with international accounting standards.

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<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS. *Global HIV & AIDS statistics - Fact sheet*. [Online].

<sup>2</sup> UNAIDS (12 July 2016). *UNAIDS warns that after significant reductions, declines in new HIV infections among adults have stalled and are rising in some regions*. [Online].

<sup>3</sup> The Global Fund. *Global Fund and Stop TB Step Up Collaboration to Fight Tuberculosis, the Biggest Infectious Disease Killer*. [Online].

<sup>4</sup> The Global Fund. *Malaria*. Accessed on 09 April 2025. [Online].

<sup>5</sup> The Global Fund. *Results Report 2024*. [Online].

## A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

The international environment in which the Global Fund's launched its new replenishment campaign is alarming. The temporary freeze on disbursements and the significant reduction of US development assistance for health are strong warning signals. The fight against AIDS will be particularly and rapidly affected by the massive cuts to the PEPFAR programme, as well as by the ending of funding for programmes promoting gender equality and supporting the most vulnerable populations, particularly in Africa. The European Commission, several EU countries, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland have also announced substantial cuts in their ODA. In addition, the current international political climate is not conducive to a multilateral approach to global issues requiring a coordinated response from the international community, including global health, the fight against climate change, and the preservation of biodiversity.

The Global Fund remains essential. However, it should also evolve in the short and medium term, to meet the challenges of global health in a post-COVID, globalised and multipolar world. The financial contributions of the United States and other donor countries are no longer guaranteed. The COVID crisis alerted the international community to recognise the need for a more transversal and multi-sectoral approach to health, with greater consideration of its social, economic and environmental determinants. Over the past 20 years, many formerly poor countries have become middle-income and emerging economies, taking increasing responsibility for their national health programmes and progressing towards universal health coverage. Global health funding will thus have to better address the need for investments in health systems, particularly in human resources, the local production of health products and innovation.

## FRANCE'S SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL FUND: RENEWING A HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THREE SUGGESTED NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In this unprecedented context, and mindful of the budgetary challenges faced by France, *Santé mondiale 2030* (Global Health 2030) calls on the French Presidency, as well as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, and Economy and Finance, to support the Global Fund through a renewed partnership. To this end, *Santé mondiale 2030* advocates for France to support three short- and medium-term strategic inflections in the Global Fund's programmes and governance:

- Accelerating the transition towards domestic financing of middle-income countries receiving Global Fund financing, in line with the Lusaka Agenda and the Global Fund's transition and co-financing policies. A partnership

with Public Development Banks could help support this transition, in alignment with the recommendations of the "Financing for Sustainable Development" agenda and the "New Global Financing Pact" Summit launched in Paris in 2023<sup>6</sup>. This transition could also strengthen synergies between bilateral and multilateral investments. Donors to the Global Fund, including France, should also adapt to the current financial crisis by front-loading resources in the first year of the next funding cycle to allow recipient countries to better adjust to the new financial context during this transition.

- France, together with its European partners, must be a driving force for upcoming reforms of the Global Fund. The Fund could, for instance, consider decentralising its secretariat to carry out its activities closer to the countries it serves, particularly in Africa, while strengthening the agenda for local production and procurement.
- At national level, and possibly at European level, we also propose the establishment of a global health scientific committee to monitor the relevance and impact of all France's and European multilateral and bilateral health investments. The creation of a Franco-European collaboration programme with the Global Fund could also promote investments in research and innovation programmes that address new global health challenges and support the capacity of scientific institutions in low-income countries.

Finally, we advocate for a public communication campaign that would enable citizens to better understand the importance of global health investments during a time of budgetary constraints<sup>7</sup>.

France must regain its scientific, diplomatic and political leadership commensurate with its longstanding investments in global health.

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<sup>6</sup> Forged at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June 2023, the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P) established four main principles for a more effective international finance policy to assist the most vulnerable countries amid crises and climate transition challenges.

<sup>7</sup> Santé mondiale 2030 (14 March 2025). *Sauver l'Aide publique au développement : un enjeu de santé crucial pour tous* (In English, *Saving Official Development Assistance: a crucial health issue for everyone*). *La Tribune Dimanche*. Available in French only. [Online].

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