

Write a Letter to the Editor about the Global Fund

What is the Global Fund?

The Global Fund is an innovative partnership between governments, communities, and the private sector. It supports programs facilitated by local experts in countries and communities where there is the greatest need. The Global Fund now has a plan to help save 8 million lives and prevent 300 million new infections from HIV, TB and malaria by 2020. It will do this by supporting countries to scale up proven treatments, target the people who need it most, and work with local communities to make sure every dollar is maximized.

The Global Fund provides about eighty percent of all external funding for fighting TB. Since 2000, TB deaths have declined 29 percent in countries partnering with the Global Fund. Driven by the goal of ending AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria as epidemics, the Global Fund has helped save 17 million lives since it was founded in 2002. With Global Fund support, 13.2 million people have received lifesaving TB treatment. An additional 8.1 million people are on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, and 548 million mosquito nets have been distributed to prevent malaria.

When the Global Fund began in 2002, AIDS was ripping through the developing world, especially parts of sub-Saharan Africa. TB and malaria were rampant. At that point, the Global Fund was supporting countries just to help stop as many deaths as possible. But because of major innovations and scientific advances since then, this work is not just about preventing deaths anymore. It's about ending all three epidemics once and for all.

World leaders will come together to pledge their financial support for the Global Fund on September 16 in Montreal, at a conference hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Both Canada and the European Union have already announced they will increase their pledges by a full 20 percent, and Japan has pledged an additional \$800 million to the fight.

When the world gathers in September, the U.S. can do its part by pledging to contribute a full one-third of the Global Fund's resources, as it has done in the past. This is a chance for President Obama to secure his legacy on global health and show the world that the U.S. is committed to ending TB – along with AIDS and malaria – once and for all.

Why write a letter to the editor?

Writing a letter to the editor is a great way to let our leaders know that global health matters. Remember, your senators and representatives are reading your local paper. Even one published letter can make a big difference!

Tips

- Keep your letter short. Check your newspaper for their length requirements, or simply keep the letter to 150-200 words.
- Make the letter personal. Customize with your own ideas, examples, and passion.
- Keep a look out for your letter in print and, if you're published, share on social media and with your members of Congress.
- Let RESULTS staff know you've been published, too!

Sample LTE

To the Editor:

Your recent coverage of the Zika virus [insert article title] very powerfully reminds us that diseases respect no borders. Tuberculosis — the world's biggest infectious killer — doesn't make headlines, but it should. Every year, TB makes 10 million people sick. It also happens to be a major cause and consequence of global poverty.

The good news is that we can do something about this. TB is treatable and curable, and ending it is scientifically possible and in our grasp. No other single event will play a bigger role in changing the disease's trajectory than this fall's replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. World leaders will come together to pledge their financial support for the Global Fund on September 16 in Montreal. The U.S. can do its part by pledging to contribute a full one-third of the Global Fund's resources, as it has done in the past.

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[YOUR NAME]