

FOCUS ON

Faith-based Organizations

The partnership between faith-based organizations and the Global Fund has achieved tremendous impact on global health

Faith communities play a fundamental role in addressing health challenges around the world. For decades, these organizations have been providing lifesaving prevention, care and treatment to those in need. Many hospitals and clinics around the world can trace their roots to people of faith and are still being managed by churches and other religious bodies. Faith leaders and institutions have also been fundamental in addressing stigma and educating communities about health.

Faith-based organizations are essential providers of rural health care in many parts of the developing world and play an important role in serving the hard-to-reach and poorest population groups. Recognizing these unique achievements and the critical role of faith-based organizations, the Global Fund encourages their participation through diverse ways such as grant implementation, building local capacity, advocacy, and fundraising.



A four-day Global Fund distribution of 6 million mosquito nets in three regions of Niger was executed between May 16 and May 19, 2015 by Catholic Relief Services and its partners. The goal was to achieve universal coverage of the population with long-lasting insecticidal nets to protect them from mosquito bites and transmission of the malaria parasite. Women returning to the village after receiving the mosquito nets for their households.

With a commitment to serving the poorest and most vulnerable populations, and with years of trust built up among the people they serve, members of the faith community are integral to the sustainability of global health programs. Importantly, the faith community has played a critical role in addressing the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics in areas with the greatest need and fewest resources.

An Increase in Faith-based Participation

As it strives to make its investments achieve the greatest impact, the Global Fund is committed to continuing to build and foster strong partnerships with this important group of stakeholders.

Implementing programs

Since 2002, the Global Fund has disbursed US\$1.25 billion in 66 grants to faith-based organizations for program implementation in 26 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, as well as one grant spanning multiple countries. The share of funding going to faith-based organizations has been increasing over the years. Since the Global Fund's inception, an estimated 4.2 percent of the Global Fund's resources have been disbursed to faith-based organizations acting as Principal Recipients (the organization responsible for implementing a Global Fund grant in a country). As of April 2016 an estimated 6.3 percent of Global Fund resources are committed to faith-based organizations through active grants. Both figures represent a notable increase since 2010, when an estimated 3 percent had been disbursed to faith-based organizations working as Principal Recipients.

Interfaith platforms play an important role in ensuring that organizations from all religions cooperate in the fight against the diseases. Interfaith dialogue brings together organizations with the objective of promoting better health practices and improving the health of the communities they serve.

Country Coordinating Mechanisms

At the country level, faith-based organizations play an important role in the management of grants through participation in national committees known as Country Coordinating Mechanisms, responsible for overseeing grant management. In total, there are 151 members of faith-based organizations sitting on Country Coordinating Mechanisms. Seventy-three out of 111 Country Coordinating Mechanisms (65.8 percent) with active Global Fund grants have at least one representative of a faith-based organization. In addition, eight faith-based representatives currently hold either the position of Chair or Vice Chair on their Country Coordinating Mechanism.

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This young woman is being treated for TB at the General Hospital of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. World Vision is implementing a program that aims to reduce both the prevalence of TB and the number of TB deaths by 50 percent by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.

Interfaith platforms also play an important governance role through Country Coordinating Mechanisms in countries where the Global Fund invests. Some examples of these coalitions are: the Interfaith Foundation for Social Development in Thailand, Inter-Religious Council for Peace in Tanzania, Inter-Religious Organization in Guyana, the Lesotho Inter-Religious AIDS Consortium, the National Inter-Religious Council in Mozambique, and the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone.

Resource Mobilization

Several faith-based organizations have played a critical role in both implementation of Global Fund-supported programs in many key countries and in advocating for more resources for the Global Fund's mission. These organizations include World Vision, the United Methodist Church, Caritas and Catholic Relief Services. The United Methodist Church is the leading faith-based donor to the Global Fund, raising and contributing over US\$20 million through their "Imagine No Malaria" campaign.



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Monks play a vital role in the religious and social lives of the Bhutanese people. Through a Global Fund grant, they receive training in how to raise awareness of TB among the general population. Monks themselves are considered a vulnerable group as well, and religious authorities are actively involved in TB outreach and screening in monastic institutions throughout the country.

Investing for impact

Smart, effective health investments through the Global Fund have saved 17 million lives since 2002, expanding opportunity and achieving greater social justice for families and communities worldwide. These efforts have put the Global Fund partnership on track to save 22 million lives by the end of 2016.

Through collective global commitment, the Global Fund partnership has forced HIV, TB and malaria into retreat. However, tremendous challenges in global health remain. Adolescent girls are contracting HIV at a highly disproportionate rate in east and southern Africa. TB/HIV co-infection is on the rise, as is multidrug-resistant TB. Gains made against malaria could be lost if we do not expand prevention and treatment programs. We must seize the momentum, embrace ambition and move faster to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a 21st-century partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics. As a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by the diseases, the Global Fund mobilizes and invests nearly US\$4 billion a year to support programs run by local experts in more than 100 countries. The Global Fund's operating costs are just 2.3 percent of grants under management, reflecting an exceptionally high degree of efficiency. By challenging barriers and embracing innovative approaches, we are working together to better serve people affected by the diseases.

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