

# UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

PARTNERING TO SAVE LIVES AND DEVELOP CAPACITY

## Overview

In line with the vision of its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities, UNDP works with governments, civil society organizations, donors, UN, academia and the private sector to tackle the environmental, economic and social drivers of poor health and ensure that everyone has access to health services. **UNDP's longstanding partnership with the Global Fund** plays a key role in supporting countries to promote greater equity, save lives, and ensure the right to health by accelerating the fight to combat the AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria epidemics.

Within the partnership, UNDP supports governments to **implement large-scale disease programmes, particularly in crisis and post-crisis contexts, make health systems more resilient and sustainable, and strengthen laws and policies** to ensure that healthcare is accessible to all. UNDP also strengthens the capacities of national entities and local organizations within countries so they can sustainably take over full management and responsibility of Global Fund grants when circumstances permit. Since 2003, UNDP has transitioned out of 33 countries and three regional grants.

By supporting countries to access Global Fund resources and effectively channel them into interventions that reach the populations who need them most, the partnership is of **critical importance to millions of people across the world**. Through close collaboration with national governments and civil society organizations, UNDP-managed Global Fund programmes have cumulatively helped to save 7.3 million lives and enable people to live fuller, more productive lives, support their families and contribute to communities and economies.

## 20 countries where UNDP is interim Principal Recipient (PR)

Afghanistan • Angola • Bolivia • Burundi • Chad • Congo • Cuba • Djibouti • Egypt • Guinea-Bissau • Haiti • Iran • Kyrgyzstan Pakistan • South Sudan • Sudan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Venezuela • Zimbabwe

## 2 regional programmes where UNDP is PR

Asia (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan) • Western Pacific (Cook Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu)

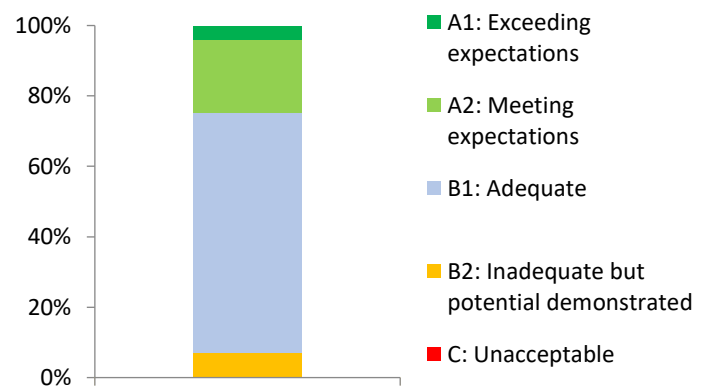
## Pillars of the partnership

The partnership focuses on three closely linked areas of work:

### 1. Implementation support

UNDP is called upon to implement Global Fund programmes as interim 'Principal Recipient' in a select number of countries, particularly those facing significant capacity constraints, complex emergencies, or other difficult circumstances. The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and/or the Global Fund requests UNDP to act as interim Principal Recipient where no suitable local entity could be identified, and in countries under the Global Fund's Additional Safeguard Policy.

Despite the challenging, high-risk environments, in December 2021, **93 percent of the grants managed by UNDP and evaluated by the Global Fund were positively rated (A1, A2 or B1)**, as shown below. In addition, drawing on its experiences in health emergencies, UNDP has supported countries to access and deliver over US\$238 million in Global Fund resources to respond to COVID-19 and mitigate its impact on HIV, TB and malaria efforts.



### 2. Capacity development

Capacity development is an integral part of all UNDP programmes, including those financed through the Global Fund. While serving as interim Principal Recipient, UNDP works to develop national capacity and **strengthen national systems** necessary for the implementation of Global Fund grants and delivery of health services more broadly. Areas of support include programme and financial management, fiduciary controls and oversight, sub-recipient management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation and supply chain management. To ensure that this support is

systematic and tailored to country needs, UNDP has developed a comprehensive process for jointly assessing capacity gaps and working with key stakeholders to **establish and implement Capacity Development Plans**.

UNDP's capacity development efforts have led to improved procurement systems and supply chain management, which have made service delivery quicker and more consistent and prevented stock-outs of medicines. Monitoring and evaluation systems have been strengthened, including through digital technologies, to ensure frequent assessments of services provided and better access to data. UNDP has also supported the Global Fund in **reducing the risk of corruption and fraud** by strengthening financial management and internal audit systems, working together with national entities to better manage grants, set up web-based accounting systems, and introduce robust control frameworks.

### 3. Policy engagement

As a **Cosponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** and a member of the UNAIDS delegation to the Global Fund Board, UNDP also engages with the Global Fund on important substantive policy and programmatic issues. In line with its core mandates and leveraging the policy expertise across its UN and civil society partnerships, UNDP promotes the incorporation of initiatives for **good governance, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability** into Global Fund grants. This includes through strengthening community systems for health and ensuring that financing reaches key populations affected by HIV, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who use drugs. UNDP also promotes alignment of grants with national development plans and poverty reduction strategies and contributes to further enhancement of country-level governance of Global Fund programmes in ways that respect principles of national ownership and aid effectiveness.

As part of **CATCH (Coalition for Accountability, Transparency and Anti-Corruption in Health)**, UNDP is working with the Global Fund, WHO, and the World Bank to support multi-stakeholder initiatives to strengthen the knowledge base and implementation of risk-based corruption prevention measures in the health sector.

UNDP is also leveraging its role as Principal Recipient to advance human rights and promote the recommendations from the **Global Commission on HIV and the Law**. This includes by strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations, key populations, parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, law enforcement, national human rights institutions, and other stakeholders to remove legal, policy, and social barriers that impede marginalized populations' access to health.

### A continuum of support: beyond the PR role

Beyond its contributions to HIV, TB, and malaria responses as interim Principal Recipient of Global Fund grants in challenging country contexts, UNDP is increasingly called upon to support national programmes and health systems strengthening efforts in

a range of other capacities. This includes supporting the management of resources by national Principal Recipients or CCMS as a fund administrator; facilitating short-term technical assistance as a co-PR with a national entity; or providing specialized support in key areas through domestic- or donor-funded agreements with government based on need, such as for procurement and supply chain management, health infrastructure development, digitalization of health information systems, or capacity building in public financial management. In many cases, **UNDP operates through multiple modalities** in a given country, directly building on and complementing the PR role or previous engagement as PR. It likewise helps to identify and **strengthen synergies with complementary health partners**, such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi). This range of partnership modalities ensures that UNDP can tailor its support to the evolving needs and opportunities of health systems as countries move across the development continuum and gradually transition away from donor-funded health programmes.



### Partnership Results (cumulative since 2003)

**US\$1.46 billion** is currently managed by UNDP (active grants)

The partnership has helped countries to save **7.3 million lives**.

**HIV**

**1.5 million** people currently on HIV treatment

**59.8 million** people received HIV counselling and testing

**Malaria**

**96.5 million** malaria cases treated

**95.9 million** bed nets have been distributed, achieving **universal coverage** in some countries (e.g. Zambia)

**TB**

**1 million** cases of TB detected and people put on treatment

**26,195** people treated for multi-drug resistant TB

### What UNDP brings to the partnership

UNDP provides an important service to the Global Fund through its programme implementation support. Its contributions to the partnership include:

- Long-term country presence and operational capacity;
- Solid risk management and control frameworks with additional measures tailor-made for Global Fund grants;
- Institutional expertise in capacity development and good governance;
- Multi-country expertise in grant implementation;
- Well-established legal and administrative agreements with countries;
- Ability to engage civil society organization as sub-recipients in countries where legal frameworks may be an obstacle;
- Ability to implement programmes in countries under donor sanctions;
- Access to the technical expertise of the UN family;
- Efficient and competitive procurement in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA.