

Position Paper

Impacts of the planned cuts to Germany's contribution to the Global Fund

Introduction

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is one of the most effective multilateral instruments in global health. Since its founding, it has saved 70 million lives.

In 2024 alone, the partnership achieved the [following results](#):

- 25.6 million people received antiretroviral therapy for HIV.
- 7.4 million people were treated for tuberculosis.
- 162 million mosquito nets were distributed to protect children and families from malaria.

The Global Fund also invests in strengthening health systems and disease surveillance in more than 100 countries to detect, trace, and contain new outbreaks worldwide.

These achievements have also been made possible through Germany's contribution. Germany is one of the largest donors to the Global Fund. Through the commitment of the BMZ, Germany contributes to shaping the Fund's strategic priorities, for example regarding health system strengthening as well as aligning the programs with human rights-based approaches and the needs of particularly vulnerable groups. As a reliable partner, Germany has played a key role in achieving these results since the Fund's creation.

However, the budget adjustment proposal of the Federal Ministry of Finance now threatens drastic cuts: only €850 million are foreseen for the next funding period (2026–2028) of the Fund's programs, **in contrast to €1.3 billion in the last period** (2023–2025). This represents a reduction of **€450 million** or around **35%**.

If these cuts go ahead, the consequences will be catastrophic: for people with HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in countries of the Global South, for global health security and the economic development of the affected countries, and for Germany's credibility as an important and reliable partner. At a time when other nations are withdrawing from global responsibility, Germany could demonstrate that it chooses to do the opposite.

What is at stake?

If the cuts remain in place, the consequences for people in the Global South will be very concrete. They would result in:

- 650,000 additional deaths
- 12 million new HIV, tuberculosis and malaria infections
- 9 billion USD less economic returns from health gains

Global impacts on HIV/AIDS

Due to the cuts, **900,000 people** will not be able to start or continue their lifesaving HIV therapy. As a result, the number of drug resistances and AIDS-related deaths will increase, and chains of infection will be reignited. Since successful ARV-therapies prevent HIV-transmissions, the loss of these treatments will lead to the epidemic spreading further again.

The impact on mothers and children will be especially dramatic: **68,000 mothers** will no longer receive medication to prevent transmission to their children, resulting in an entire generation of preventable newborn infections. In addition, **50 million tests and counselling** sessions that enable people to access timely help will be lost, and **2.1 million particularly vulnerable people** will lose access to prevention services.

This will increase the number of undetected infections and push the international goal of the United Nations to end AIDS as a threat to global health by 2030 far out of reach. Important community structures – that support people living with HIV – ensure access and reduce discrimination will be weakened.

Global impacts on tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is still the deadliest infectious disease worldwide and is the most common cause of death for people with HIV/TB co-infection. Cuts of the planned magnitude will leave **700,000 people without treatment** and deny **17 million people** the chance of timely diagnosis. Particularly alarming is **that 19,000 people with drug-resistant tuberculosis** will no longer receive therapy, allowing multidrug-resistant strains to spread further. Additionally, **28,000 people with HIV/TB co-infection** will lose their combined treatment, a setback with far-reaching consequences for public health and global health security.

Global impacts on malaria

Malaria primarily affects children: every minute, a child dies of this disease. The planned cuts would mean **90 million mosquito nets** will not be distributed, **26 million children** will lose access to seasonal preventive medication, and **24 million patients** will not receive treatment. This will not only cause deaths but also increase the danger of a massive resurgence of the disease, especially in regions where resistance to insecticides and medicines is already emerging.

Political impacts

The planned cuts are a humanitarian disaster. They undermine Germany's international credibility and its role as a reliable partner in development cooperation.

However, the impacts go far beyond that:

- **Reliability:** Germany is a co-founder and the fourth-largest donor of the Global Fund. The cuts undermine Germany's respected position as a stable partner.
- **Security:** The best global defense against infectious diseases is to contain outbreaks at their source. The planned cuts endanger not only efforts to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria but also global health security, with direct risks for Germany itself.
- **Efficiency:** Cutting funds from the most effective multilateral instrument in global health is politically and economically short-sighted. Every euro invested in the Global Fund saves lives, strengthens health and community systems, and creates economic returns.
- **Signal effect:** In times of multiple crises, Germany would send a disastrous signal of retreat. This would not only weaken partners in the Global South but also send the wrong signal by putting multilateral approaches, which are already under global pressure, at further risk.

Our demand

Especially in times when **prioritization, impact, and efficiency** are demanded from all sides, it is counterproductive to cut funding from the Global Fund, one of the most efficient, transparent, and impactful instruments of international health financing.

We call on the members of the German Bundestag and the German government to reverse the planned cuts to Germany's contribution to the Global Fund and to send a strong signal of solidarity and responsibility.

For the 8th replenishment of the Global Fund, we calculate Germany's fair contribution for 2026–2028 at **€1.8 billion**. A contribution below **€1.4 billion** will inevitably endanger lifesaving programs, and cost lives.

Action against AIDS Germany

September 2025

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Note:

An overview of the concrete impacts of the planned cuts, including calculations on lives saved, infections averted and the economic losses, is available [here](#).

The figures are based on calculations by the Global Fund.