In 2002, the United States joined with global partners to create the Global Fund, a 21st century public-private partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria as epidemics. By challenging the status quo in how the world fights disease, the Global Fund represents an innovative and efficient model of U.S. health leadership and diplomacy. U.S. investment in global health represents one of the few areas that has won consistent, bipartisan American support, or produced such substantial humanitarian, economic and security gains for the U.S. and the world.

**Results with lifesaving impact at a fraction of the U.S. budget**

The U.S. has played a leadership role in supporting and directing the Global Fund since its founding in 2002. As Vice President Pence said during the 2008 reauthorization of the U.S. global AIDS program, “The United States has a moral obligation to lead the world in confronting the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.”

The impact of global health investments has been startling. Since 1990, the number of child deaths annually has been cut by more than half. Nearly 21 million people are now receiving lifesaving AIDS treatment. The number of deaths from malaria has fallen 42 percent since 2000, and efforts to diagnose and treat TB have saved millions of lives in the same period.

Working closely with governments, the private sector and faith-based partners, the Global Fund has supported programs that have saved more than 22 million lives since 2002. From 2017 to 2019, Global Fund support is expected to save an additional 14 million lives, avert up to 194 million more HIV, TB and malaria infections, and support future economic gains of up to $230 billion.

This progress has brought us to a tipping point in efforts to end these epidemics for good, but there is a real possibility of backsliding without robust investment to reach the finish line.

**The Global Fund and U.S. bilateral programs depend on each other for success**

The Global Fund and U.S. bilateral programs such as the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), and USAID’s TB program reinforce each other’s work across the globe, working hand-in-hand to avoid duplication, increase transparency and financial efficiency, and scale up innovative programs. As PEPFAR leadership has said, “Our partnership with the Global Fund helps maximize the impact and efficiency of our bilateral investments targeting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by enabling the United States to strategically deploy our resources... We can’t have one without the other.”

**A transformation in global health aid: Results-oriented, transparent, accountable**

The Global Fund represents a new kind of funding approach that is transparent and results-oriented. Accountability is integral to Global Fund operations, from grant-making and procurement processes to the comprehensive financial data provided on the partnership’s website. The Global Fund has zero tolerance for corruption or fraud, and requires evidence of results for continued support. The Global Fund’s Office of the Inspector General operates independently from the Secretariat to conduct robust audits and investigations of all systems, operations and activities.

In 2017, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network gave the Global Fund top ratings in architecture, operating model, and transparency and accountability. In 2016, the Global Fund also achieved...
the highest possible transparency rating in both the Publish What You Fund Aid Transparency Index, and the U.K. Department of International Development’s Multilateral Review.

**Major benefits for America**

**Benefits for U.S. security**

Outbreaks such as Zika and Ebola have reminded us repeatedly that disease knows no borders. The rapid spread of a new infectious disease is among the most likely scenarios to result in the deaths of tens of millions of Americans. The 1918 flu pandemic, for example, caused up to 50 million deaths worldwide — more than all the wars of the 20th century combined.

To quote Global Fund Executive Director Peter Sands, “strengthening health security has to start from tackling the infectious diseases that are killing people now.” The Global Fund works with countries to help prevent, contain and control AIDS, TB and malaria at their sources. This helps to strengthen health systems’ capacity when there is an outbreak emergency, fight the growing threat of drug resistance, and protect Americans by reducing the possibility of an outbreak spreading to U.S. shores.

Furthermore, bipartisan analysis has found that U.S. global health investments support American diplomacy by generating goodwill. These investments help countries become more stable and prosperous, paving the way for partnership and shared responsibility in health and security.

**Benefits for economies and trade**

Disease is a burden on a family’s finances and a nation’s economic potential. The 22 million people whose lives have been saved through Global Fund-supported programs live mainly in countries that are critical to the future U.S. economy. Eleven of the top 15 U.S. export markets were once recipients of U.S. foreign aid.

Malaria-free countries have five times greater economic growth than countries with malaria, and every dollar invested in malaria control yields $40 in economic returns ($60 in sub-Saharan Africa). Every dollar spent on TB generates $43 through improved health and increased productivity. Maintaining the current 2017-2019 U.S. commitment to the Global Fund alone supports an estimated $76.7 billion in future economic gains.

The Global Fund catalyzes increased domestic and international investments

The launch of the Global Fund’s Fifth Replenishment cycle spurred donors to pledge nearly $13 billion to support lifesaving grants through 2019. Private sector and faith-based donors pledged an unprecedented $250 million, more than double that of the previous cycle, and eight of the top 10 Global Fund donors significantly increased their commitments (see chart above).

Through steady investment and a two-thirds matching pledge requirement, the U.S. is uniquely poised to leverage exponential investments in the Global Fund from across the globe. For every $1 the U.S. invests in the Global Fund, other donors must invest $2 more. The Global Fund also incentivizes commitments from implementing countries themselves, holding back 15 percent of grants until there is evidence of growing domestic resources for health.

**Conclusion**

Remarkable progress has been made, but efforts to end deadly epidemics remain underfunded. U.S. global health support has flatlined in the last five years, despite high return on investment. The Global Fund is a proven, dynamic mechanism that can help win the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria with sufficient funding from the U.S. and global partners. By saving millions of lives each year, the Global Fund is one of the best strategic investments we can make in American security and prosperity.