



**MDG 6 focuses on communicable diseases affecting developing countries. Those diseases are strongly inter-related and require concerted responses that include strengthening health systems.**

## Introduction

Millennium Development Goal 6 aims to reduce the number of people dying from some of the most common infectious diseases found in developing countries. Its targets are to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS and to halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases, including tuberculosis, by 2015.

## Statistics

- In 2008, over 33 million people were living with HIV.
- Nearly three million people were newly-infected.
- Two million people died of AIDS-related illnesses.
- In 2007, 9,2 million new cases of TB were diagnosed.
- 1.7 million people died of TB: 1 every 20 seconds.
- Extremely drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is emerging.
- An estimated 243 million cases of malaria were reported in 2008
- Children under five account for the majority of deaths.

## Links

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have much in common and are interrelated. All prey on the poorest and most vulnerable, those who are malnourished and those outside the reach of adequate healthcare. Once infected with HIV, the chances of contracting TB and/or malaria increase substantially. TB is the biggest killer of those living with HIV: in 2007, of the 1.7 million people who died of TB, 456,000 were co-infected with HIV. Countries with high communicable disease burdens are those that will find it hardest to achieve any of the MDGs. These diseases are present in pandemic proportions in the poorest countries of the world, putting an inordinate strain on weak health systems and on the millions of families affected. Adequate control of these diseases requires a co-ordinated, integrated approach that addresses the interconnectedness of all three diseases.

## Specific initiatives

One of the most important opportunities to speed up progress towards the achievement of MDG 6 was the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria which, since 2002, has committed US\$7.56 billion to fight the three diseases. 2010 marks a key year for the Global Fund, since it will be launching its third replenishment round for 2010-2013, with resource needs estimated between 15-18 billion USD for this period.

## A health systems approach

To meet the challenge of MDG 6, a well-functioning, integrated and fully operational health system – effective at local, regional and national levels, and staffed by well-trained, well-managed and well-paid workers – is essential. To achieve this level of healthcare delivery, predictable, sustainable and long-term financing is required to build the capacity of public health systems. This will facilitate the provision of services that are pro-poor and accessible by all citizens, including those who are marginalised, vulnerable and hard to reach.

## Costing the fight for MDG6

Action for Global Health is calling for an urgent implementation of the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health recommendation to all donors to allocate 0.1% of their GNI, equivalent to 15% of the 0.7% GNI/ODA target, as ODA for health in order to achieve all health MDGs by 2015. This is needed now to strengthen the capacity of health systems so that basic healthcare packages can be delivered effectively.

In addition, a report released by UNAIDS, *"What countries need: Investments needed for 2010 targets,"* estimates that an investment of US\$ 25 billion will be required for the global AIDS response in 2010 for low- and middle-income countries—US\$ 11.3 billion more than is available today.

WHO and the Stop-TB Partnership further estimate that a minimum of US\$31 billion is required between 2006 and 2015 to implement a comprehensive package that will enable the achievement of the target to halt and reverse the incidence of TB by 2015.

## Action for Global Health

Action for Global Health is calling on the EU to increase their political and financial commitments in order to enable developing countries to make significant progress towards achieving MDG 6. This includes:

- increased, sustainable, predictable and comprehensive financing for health systems that will ensure HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria are adequately addressed in conjunction with each other and with the other health-related MDGs
- ensuring there is adequate investment in new prevention and treatment tools and technologies for the three diseases
- addressing gender disparities and tackling stigma and discrimination to secure access to essential health services for all, including for the poorest and marginalized populations.