



IOM field staff conduct a tuberculosis awareness activity in Hlaing Shwe Li Village Kawthaung Township, Myanmar; October 2023. © IOM 2023

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered in 2015 to collaborate in the fight against these three diseases in the context of migration. Through this collaboration, the two organizations have committed to addressing the unique health challenges faced by mobile populations around the world; to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal focused on health and well-being; and to advancing Universal Health Coverage. The alliance between the Global Fund and IOM is driven by a mutual interest in protecting the health of migrants, internally displaced persons, and other people on the move.

As migration patterns continue to evolve and intersect with global health priorities, and in concert with Global Fund's intensified attention on challenging operating environments, the two agencies recognize the imperative to forge innovative solutions, foster inclusive healthcare systems, and promote health equity. The partnership signifies dedication to addressing health challenges in communities, countries, or regions facing infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, armed conflicts, civil unrest, weak governance, climate change-related crises, and mass displacement.

## AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Together, the Global Fund and IOM strive to ensure that migrants have access to quality healthcare services, free from discrimination and barriers, regardless of their countries of origin or destination and their migration status. The two organizations collaborate with Ministries of Health, affected communities, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN partners, civil society, and various stakeholders. They work to prevent, diagnose, and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria — prioritizing evidence-based and evidence-informed sustainable interventions with lasting impact. Interventions include:

**Programme Development:** The Global Fund provides financial and technical support for initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, while IOM contributes its expertise in migration health to design programmes that specifically target migrant populations, considering their unique health challenges and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, IOM focuses on how migrants' health can be influenced by their migration process at various stages, and also impact public health (as migrants and host communities interact across borders throughout their journeys).

**Building resilient health systems:** The Global Fund and IOM are working to strengthen the capacity of healthcare systems and communities in countries with significant migrant populations, particularly in areas with fragile health infrastructure. The two organizations support governments and communities in tailoring their responses to suit their political, cultural, and epidemiological contexts.

**Data/Information Collection:** Collaboratively, the Global Fund and IOM gather data and information to better understand the health status and needs of migrant populations. This information helps inform the design and implementation of targeted interventions and policies related to the three diseases, to improve health outcomes among migrants.

**Advocacy and Awareness:** Through the partnership, both organizations engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the health issues facing migrants and the importance of providing equitable access to healthcare services. The Global Fund and IOM recognize that human rights barriers including discrimination, punitive laws, gender inequality and gender-based violence threaten universal access to quality healthcare.

## PROGRESS OVERVIEW

Since the early 2000s, IOM has received funding of over USD 200 million and served as both a Principal Recipient and Sub-Recipient for Global Fund grants across diverse settings and contexts, implementing multi-country and single-country projects in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and the Middle East. These initiatives aim to address systemic health issues among migrants and offer technical support to governments and partners in promoting migrant-friendly health services.



In Thailand's largest temporary shelter for refugees, IOM is working to end tuberculosis. © IOM 2023/Miko Alazas

## CASE STUDIES

### Middle East Response (MER)

PROJECT DURATION: 1 JANUARY 2017 — present

Total funding: USD 172.3 million

The regional Middle East Response (MER) is a unique multi-country, multi-year grant from the Global Fund to IOM as the Principal Recipient. The grant supports the implementation of innovative and differentiated interventions to prevent, diagnose, treat, and control the three diseases in challenging operating environments (COEs) in selected six countries. The MER is operational in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen since 2017; Iraq since 2019, and Palestinian Territories since January 2022.

The MER grant finances community-wide responses prioritizing migrants; refugees; and mobile, displaced, and vulnerable populations. The organizations employ a unique approach to managing complex programmes in COEs through a single Project Management Unit (PMU), led from IOM's office in Amman, Jordan. The PMU at IOM Jordan manages project implementation; and facilitates coordination/ collaboration with the donor, the technical support group members (WHO, UNAIDS), health ministries, and other relevant partners. The PMU ensures uninterrupted provision of drugs, diagnostics, and other consumables — leveraging expertise in supply chain management; participation in special platforms such as the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Drug Facility (UNOPS); and the pooled procurement mechanism of the Global Fund.



Mijhem plays with friends in Azraq Camp, Jordan, after recovering from TB. © IOM 2017/Fedza Lukovac

### Key achievements (from 1 January 2017 — 31 December 2023)

- Over **260,000** vulnerable people voluntarily tested for HIV and almost **7,000** people living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving lifesaving Anti-Retroviral Therapy.
- More than **126,000** drug sensitive TB patients of all forms notified and treated, and **1,200** drug-resistant TB patients in the six countries diagnosed and treated.
- Around **6 million** long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLIN) distributed to most at risk populations in Yemen thereby protecting around **12 million** people from malaria.
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- Oxygen supply installed in the three high-volume public health hospitals in the Syrian Arab Republic, for critical patient management.
- Capacity of laboratory network and decentralized diagnostic facilities enhanced, including purchase of WHO recommended molecular diagnostics machine to strengthen TB case detection and treatment in all participant countries.

## Tuberculosis Elimination Among Migrants Phase 2 (TEAM2) in Greater Mekong Subregion

PROJECT DURATION: 1 JANUARY 2022 — present

Total funding: USD 8.5 million

IOM is the Principal Recipient for a multi-country TB grant spanning the five Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries: Cambodia, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The resulting project aims to reduce the burden of TB among the migrant populations of the GMS and thereby reduce TB transmission, incidence and mortality. There are 13 sub-recipients of the grant for Tuberculosis Elimination Among Migrants Phase 2 (TEAM2), including National TB Programmes, civil society organizations, and regional partners. They facilitate TB case detection among migrants, refugees and border communities.

The programme's key feature is its inclusivity, covering populations not included in existing national TB Programmes or grants. It targets those highly vulnerable to TB due to prevalence, co-infection, social determinants of health, or barriers to accessing diagnosis and treatment. These groups vary by context/location and include cross-border migrants, returnees, refugees, host communities, migrants in special economic zones, IDPs, LGBTQI+ migrants, as well as other vulnerable populations like victims of trafficking, the elderly, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS.



Community engagement and health awareness session at a school in Thailand. © IOM 2023

### Key achievements (from 1 January 2022 — 31 December 2023)

- **9,182** TB cases (all forms) detected among migrants/within target populations.
- **101,920** migrants/members of target populations screened for TB symptoms.
- **128,735** migrants/members of target populations reached with health education.
- **47,66** migrants/members of target populations received for Chest X-Rays.
- **995** volunteers trained to care for migrants at the community level.



TB therapy in Myanmar. © IOM 2023

## Preventing Lost to Follow-up and Sustaining HIV and TB Treatment Among Migrant Populations in Lesotho

PROJECT DURATION: 1 JUNE 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2023 (1.5 years)

Total funding: USD 560,835

In its capacity as Sub-Recipient of a Global Fund grant, the IOM office in Lesotho, implemented a project which aimed to support better health outcomes for Basotho migrants and other mobile populations in Lesotho by enhancing adherence to HIV/TB treatment and access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The centrepiece of this project is the integration of migration and population mobility into Lesotho's current national plans for HIV, TB, and COVID-19. It emphasizes aspects of continuity of care for HIV and TB among migrants and migration-affected communities and building the capacity of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National AIDS Commission (NAC) to implement and lead migration-sensitive strategies in Lesotho. The project was implemented in collaboration with the MoH; the NAC; the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); WHO; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and other UN agencies.



Health screening in Lesotho border community. © IOM 2023

### Key achievements

- **5,643** migrants and persons living in migration affected communities received HIV Testing Services.
- **2,890** migrants and persons living in migration affected communities referred to other health services, including for sexual and reproductive health.
- **40,192** migrants and persons living in migration affected communities sensitized on migrant-friendly services on HIV/TB and continuity of care (Borders and border communities).
- **6,057** migrants and persons living in migration affected communities screened for TB.
- **6,451** migrants and persons living in migration affected communities referred for COVID-19 services (vaccination).

# Strengthening and Decentralizing the Fight against Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to reach vulnerable populations in the Republic of Guinea with the New NFM2 Financing Model

PROJECT DURATION: 1 JANUARY 2018 - 31 DECEMBER 2023

Total funding: USD 1.4 million

In its capacity as Sub-Recipient of a grant from the Global Fund, via Plan International Guinea, IOM implemented a project over six years focused on HIV and tuberculosis prevention in the Republic of Guinea. The overall goal of the project was to strengthen and decentralize the national response to HIV/AIDS and TB in country and, specifically, to reduce mortality and morbidity related to these two diseases.

A differentiated strategy — operationalizing a Mobile Medical Unit, a Close-Quartered Dispensary and the dispensing of HIV self-testing — made it possible to reach hidden key populations (i.e. sex workers and men who have sex with men).



Mobile Medical Unit in N'Zérékoré, December 2022. © IOM 2022

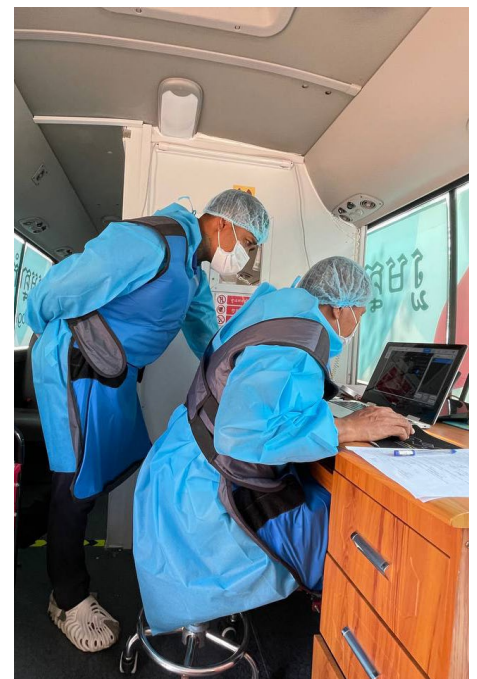
## Key achievements

- Key populations and vulnerable groups sensitized on STI/HIV prevention.
- Treatment for sexually transmitted and opportunistic infections provided at the appropriate service centre level.
- Activities to focus on prevention of HIV transmission among key populations, their clients and other vulnerable populations organized.
- Case detection and adherence to treatment in hard-to-reach areas increased, including areas severely affected by Ebola virus disease, thanks to an expanded community relay structure.
- Communities sensitized on TB prevention, and suspected cases referred to the Tuberculosis Diagnosis and Treatment Centre.

## THE WAY FORWARD

The long-standing partnership between the Global Fund and IOM has brought the commonalities and complementarity of the two organizations to the fore. As reflected in the Global Fund Strategy (2023–2028), the IOM Strategic Plan (2024 – 2028) also emphasizes a people-centered approach to achieving better health outcomes and integrated health systems that create a lasting impact, resilience, and sustainability. Furthermore, by prioritizing health equity, gender equality, and human rights as fundamental guiding principles within programmes, with the valuable support from the Global Fund, IOM can ensure active engagement and leadership within the most affected communities, leaving no one behind. These approaches will contribute to the overarching IOM strategic objectives of saving lives and protecting people on the move; achieving durable solutions for displacement; and enabling regular migration pathways.

With a common focus on saving lives, IOM will continue to seek innovative health solutions with the Global Fund to address the needs and the health challenges of people on the move. Building on the Global Fund's mandate to invest in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs, as well as health systems building, and on IOM's comparative advantage in working multisectorally across borders and with hard to reach populations, the two organizations will further this fruitful and complementary partnership to jointly advocate for inclusive health services for all. Together, the Global Fund and IOM can envision a world in which every individual enjoys equitable access to quality healthcare and the opportunity for a healthy, fulfilling life.



Chest X-ray Filming on CXR Machine © IOM 2023

For more information on the above activities please contact Migration Health Division (MHD) at [mhddpt@iom.int](mailto:mhddpt@iom.int)

