



**AUSTRALIAN
GLOBAL HEALTH
ALLIANCE**



The Australian Global Health Alliance and Pacific Friends of Global Health 2025-26 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

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The Australian Global Health Alliance and Pacific Friends of Global Health acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

THE AUSTRALIAN GLOBAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Australian Global Health Alliance is the member-based peak body for Australian global health organisations, with a mandate to strengthen the global health ecosystem through national and global connections, partnerships, research, and innovation, promoting best practices in global health, and advocacy.

Our membership is diverse, ranging from universities and research institutes to international and national non-government organisations or peak bodies, to government entities and public private partnerships. The Alliance also hosts the secretariats of the Australian Network of 53 WHO Collaborating Centres, and Pacific Friends of Global Health, an advocacy partnership with Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Founded in 2016 by a number of Australian global health organisations and leaders, the Alliance is currently the only OECD country global health alliance with a commitment to First Nations global health equity as part of its foundational mandate.

In 2022, the Alliance launched a new strategy, with a guiding vision of supporting the Australian global health community to contribute to a strong, sustainable and equitable global health ecosystem.

We aim to deepen collaboration among the global health community, as well as promote and curate knowledge sharing. We are committed to shifting power and transforming global health to be equitable for all, advance health equity, sustainable development and health security.



Our current cross-cutting themes and objectives, as determined in consultation with our members, are focused on some of the most urgent Global Health challenges of our time. We are concerned with the pressing emergency of the impacts of climate change for health, and we recognise the ramifications of gender inequity within the Global Health ecosystem and are committed to addressing gender equity in all of our work.

As an Alliance formed on Indigenous lands, we recognise the value and importance of First Nations knowledge to transforming global health and we are committed to involving this knowledge in all that we do.

We are an emerging Alliance with many opportunities to support new members working across Global Health in our region. As such, we are passionate about creating spaces for members representing funders, government, business, academia and civil society organisations to join the Alliance.

PACIFIC FRIENDS OF GLOBAL HEALTH

Pacific Friends of Global Health raises political and public awareness of key global health issues facing the South-East Asia and the Pacific region, and advocates to improve regional health outcomes through the Australian Government investment in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Global Health Alliance and Pacific Friends of Global Health welcome the opportunity to put forward this 2025-26 Federal Pre-Budget Submission to the Treasury.

The world stands at a critical juncture in global health. The international community has navigated the COVID19 pandemic with varying degrees of success through science and collaboration while the gross inequity between and within countries was revealed. Conflict and global warming have contributed to rapid displacement and migration. Population aging and changing birth rates contribute to challenges ahead in this region particularly with workforce capacity and disease burden.

Australia has world-class leaders and institutions in global health that are also at the forefront of thinking through their own partnerships and engagement regionally and locally. We have contributed to stemming HIV infections domestically and abroad, to introduction of new technologies and treatments in cervical cancer and drugs for neglected disease, as well as being world class leaders advocating for the protection of populations from the commercial determinants of health such as tobacco control. A strong and cohesive secure region and world is based on a strong foundation of global health equity for all. It is imperative that domestic and multilateral institutions can continue to deliver for populations.

There is a growing movement in Australia and globally towards decolonising and localising¹ international development efforts. This movement supports that development assistance be rooted in principles of justice and equity, and based on the needs, perspectives and preferences of those countries and communities. These calls echo similar calls that have been made for decades by First Nations Australians in relation to engagement with mainstream Australia. Nowhere have these calls being more salient – locally and globally – than in the realm of health. By growing our own cultural understanding as global health allies towards equal partnerships in the region and beyond, Australian institutions and organisations will continue to grow in excellence and their impact as regional and global partners.

Australia's long-standing relationships with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria underscores its commitment to multilateral partnerships that address global health challenges². Both organisations play key critical roles in advancing equitable access to life-saving vaccines, treatments, and preventative interventions for some of the world's most vulnerable populations including those living in the South-East Asia and Pacific region (henceforth "the region").

Through its support of Gavi, Australia has contributed to improving immunisation rates in low- and middle-income countries, helping to combat preventable diseases such as measles, pneumonia, and polio³. These efforts align with Australia's broader development

¹ DFAT GUIDANCE NOTE: LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/dfat-guidance-note-locally-led-development.pdf>

² The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Multilateral aid effectiveness, accessed by: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/who-we-work-with/multilateral-aid-effectiveness>

³ The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia and the GAVI Alliance, Saving lives through immunisation, accessed by: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/gavi-factsheet.pdf>

priorities of strengthening health systems, enhancing global health security, and promoting regional stability by reducing the burden of infectious diseases.

Similarly, Australia's engagement with The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria reflects its dedication to tackling the world's leading epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The Global Fund not only supports disease-specific interventions but also builds more resilient and sustainable systems for health including community responses, particularly in the region.

The multilateral landscape itself is under pressure with other donor countries falling short of their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments.⁴ By working through both multilateral channels, Australia leverages its funding and expertise alongside other donors to achieve greater collective impact.⁵ These relationships reinforce Australia's reputation as a responsible global health leader and regional partner committed to sustainable development and equitable health outcomes, while also safeguarding against the global spread of infectious diseases that pose a risk to regional and international stability.⁶

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Australia to sustain and increase research funding to Australian global health institutions and partnerships through existing and new mechanisms.

Success of all global assistance is predicated on a strong commitment to core funding of institutions, centres and programmes who carry out the core work of collaboration, health service delivery, research and advocacy locally. With the United States pulling out its World Health Organisation (WHO) funding and potentially implicating more programmes in the region from oxygen to Antiretrovirals (ARVs), it is imperative that we protect core programs that deliver lifesaving work while being able to build on the existing successful work to progress. Additionally, funding should address the shifting landscape of global health challenges which are increasingly influenced by environmental and geopolitical changes.

2. Commit at least AU\$360 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance at the Fourth Replenishment for Gavi 6.0 during 2025.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as part of its mission to save lives and increase accessibility to lifesaving vaccines, has supported the vaccination of more than 1.1 billion children globally against deadly diseases, saving more than 18.8 million lives. Australia is Gavi's largest donor in the region⁷ and has been a steadfast supporter and partner to Gavi since 2006. Investing to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for children around the world and across the region. Gavi has a long history and proven track record within the region of

⁴ Demeshko, A., & Drake, T. (2024). Opportunities for a new compact between Gavi and partner countries. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/opportunities-new-compact-between-gavi-and-partner-countries>

⁵ The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Multilateral aid effectiveness: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/who-we-work-with/multilateral-aid-effectiveness>

⁶ DevPolicy Blog, The Global Fund: smart, collaborative aid that delivers results: <https://devpolicy.org/the-global-fund-smart-collaborative-aid-that-delivers-results/>

⁷ Based on contribution to Gavi 5.0 (2021-2025) excluding COVAX



children vaccinated and lives saved: Since 2000, Gavi has immunised over 98 million children in ASEAN, and 300,00 in the Pacific preventing nearly 1.97 million deaths.⁸

Over the past 20 years, Gavi's market shaping efforts have transformed the global vaccine landscape through lowering prices, increasing access and stabilising vaccine markets. Gavi has a unique partnership model and position in shaping the global market for vaccines to bring forward new and innovative technologies. Since the 2001- 2005 strategic period Gavi increased the offering of vaccines against six infectious diseases to an expected 24 during the next R6.0 strategic period. Investments through Gavi have demonstrated strong value for money to the Australian Government, by way of economic return on immunisation in ASEAN. This alone has been estimated at USD 22.4 billion⁹, demonstrating the long-term economic gains from reduced healthcare costs and increased productivity.

Through its market shaping, Gavi works to ensure countries most in need, including those within the region have access to the benefits of life-saving new vaccines at affordable prices. However, there are those who are still in need of support to be reached and vaccinated. Approximately one in ten children in Gavi-supported countries do not receive a single-dose of routine vaccines. The number of zero-dose children in ASEAN and the Pacific has surged from 245,000 (2019) to 492,983 (2023), underscoring the urgent need for sustained and increased immunisation efforts.

Gavi continues to signal its commitment to the region, and in particular countries such as Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the Gavi Board approved additional flexibility to support fragile countries, including the possibility of multiyear co-financing waivers for countries grappling with long-term, large-scale conflict as well as a special package of support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).¹⁰ Gavi remains steadfast in its support for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands through recognising the complex health challenges and continues to work in close collaboration with both countries and Australia and to address them.

2.1. Gavi's Engagement in HPV Vaccination and Australia's Leadership in Cervical Cancer Elimination by 2035

Australia has world-leading expertise and strengths in HPV, having pioneered the one-dose HPV vaccination regimen, leading the global fight against cervical cancer. Gavi fully supports this initiative and aims to accelerate HPV vaccine rollout worldwide and has signed two memorandums of understandings with key Australian research institutes, The Kirby

⁸ Raising Generational ImmUnity 2023 Mid-Term Review Report https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/investing/funding/resource-mobilisation/MTR23_Report_FULL_eng.pdf

⁹ New evidence shows investments in vaccination produce even greater returns than previously thought [https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/new-evidence-shows-investments-vaccination-produce-even-greater-returns-previously#:~:text=\(VSL\)%20approach.-,A%20rigorously%20derived%20VSL%20finds%20that%20vaccine%20programmes%20in%20the,1%20invested%20in%20vaccine%20programmes](https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/new-evidence-shows-investments-vaccination-produce-even-greater-returns-previously#:~:text=(VSL)%20approach.-,A%20rigorously%20derived%20VSL%20finds%20that%20vaccine%20programmes%20in%20the,1%20invested%20in%20vaccine%20programmes).

¹⁰ Gavi Board approves measures to support sustainability of vaccine programmes and boost access in vulnerable communities <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-board-approves-measures-support-sustainability-vaccine-programmes-boost-access-vulnerable-communities>

Institute ¹¹, and The Australian Centre for Cervical Cancer Prevention¹² to enhance and strengthen connections and collaborations towards the elimination of HPV in the Indo-Pacific.

Gavi's HPV Impact and Future Strategy:

- The HPV vaccine prevents up to 90% of cervical cancer cases and has already averted 13,400 cervical cancer deaths in ASEAN.
- 16.3 million adolescent girls have been vaccinated with Gavi support, but HPV coverage in Gavi-supported countries remains at only 10%.
- By 2025, Gavi aims to vaccinate ~86 million girls, contingent on vaccine supply and donor support.
- Gavi has facilitated 7 HPV vaccine introductions in ASEAN (Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia), underscoring its commitment to the region.

To ensure Gavi can continue its vital work in strengthening global immunization efforts and saving lives, **we urge Australia to commit to at least AU\$360 million to the Gavi's sixth strategic period.**

3. Commit at least AU\$351 million to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's Eighth Replenishment (R8.0) during 2025.

Since 2004, the Australian Government has been a longstanding partner of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) and has always been a strong supporter of the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Global Fund has invested a total of US\$12.6 billion in 30 countries across the region, including US\$560 million in 14 Pacific Island countries. Programs supported by the Global Fund have helped save 26.4 million lives in the region, including 210,000 lives saved in the Pacific. The total investment of US\$12.6 billion in the region is estimated to have spurred US\$230.4 billion in long-term health gains and direct productivity gains of US\$80.6 billion.¹³

In addition to disease specific intervention, the Global Fund is the largest multilateral grants provider for health systems strengthening, investing US\$ 2 billion annually to support countries to build more effective and resilient health delivery systems, including community systems. By reducing the burden of HIV, TB and malaria, the capacity in primary care clinics and hospitals are freed up and can be used to provide care for other health conditions.

¹¹ New partnership to advance cervical cancer elimination efforts in PNG <https://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/news/new-partnership-advance-cervical-cancer-elimination-efforts-png>

¹² MOU signed between ACPC and Gavi, Advancing Global Efforts to eliminate cervical cancer <https://acpcc.org.au/historic-mou-signed-between-acpcc-and-gavi-advancing-global-efforts-to-eliminate-cervical-cancer/>

¹³ The Global Fund Regional Impact Report Indo-Pacific. https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12032/impact_indo-pacific_report_en.pdf

The Global Fund will release its Investment Case for the Eighth Replenishment with a target amount needed to be raised for the next grant cycle of 2026-2028 at the Eighth Replenishment launch event in first quarter of 2025. The Eighth Replenishment will take place in one of the most challenging external contexts including climate change, conflict, food insecurity as well as deepening inequalities. It is already clear that significant additional resources – well beyond the total pledges of US \$15.7 billion secured at the last Seventh replenishment – and continued leadership and contributions from the region will be vital.

Investments through the Global Fund partnership have consistently yielded exceptional returns for the Australian Government demonstrating the value of investing in health to advance broader socioeconomic development in the region. Over the past 22 years, the Global Fund has provided excellent value for money, returning approximately US\$ 13.60 investment in Australia’s priority countries in the region for every dollar contributed by Australia to the Global Fund.

The Australian Government’s strong pledge for the Global Fund’s Eighth Replenishment is more critical than ever to increase access to health care for the most vulnerable, close the equity gaps and accelerate equitable access to innovations. Supporting countries to build stronger and more resilient systems for health and communities remains essential to enable them to fight existing epidemics and be best prepared for future health threats in the region while enhancing global health security.

3.1. Multi- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis is an ongoing concern in Papua New Guinea and many countries in Southeast Asia and a major threat to the region.

The Global Fund invests in five of the top eight countries with the highest tuberculosis (TB) burdens in the world: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which accounted for more than two-thirds of the global TB incident cases in 2023. Papua New Guinea is listed among the 30 high-burden countries for TB and multidrug-resistant/rifampicin-resistant TB. In 2023, TB programs supported by the Global Fund fully rebounded from the setbacks caused by COVID-19 and delivered record results.

TB is now the deadliest infectious disease, killing 1.25 million people per year and puts a huge health and economic burden on the world’s poor. Beating it would save millions of lives and boost productivity. According to the Copenhagen Consensus Centre, a think-tank, every dollar invested in averting TB deaths returns on an average \$46 in economic benefits.¹⁴

Innovative tools and novel approaches are being applied to finding and treating the millions of “missing” people with tuberculosis - the individuals who fall ill with TB and go undiagnosed, untreated or unreported. The Global Fund is supporting 12 Pacific Island

¹⁴ <https://copenhagenconsensus.com/halftime-sustainable-development-goals-2016-2030/tuberculosis#:~:text=In%20that%20way%2C%20tuberculosis%20is,will%20go%20on%20to%20die.>

countries in their fight against TB through the Western Pacific multicountry grant. Decentralizing screening to the community level through mobile diagnostic units and community health workers and leveraging the latest digital tools such as artificial intelligence-powered computer-aided detection software and ultraportable X-rays are enabling the Pacific Island countries to screen people living on remote islands and put them on treatment.

At the 52nd The Global Fund Board Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi in 2024, the Board unanimously endorsed changes to the *Eligibility Policy and Allocation Methodology* which for R8.0 will shift funding towards lower-income countries and increase the proportion of funding for tuberculosis and malaria. Consequently, this means there will be more resources for eligible countries to commit to programming to combat TB and malaria.

3.2. Delivering breakthrough value through scale

The Global Fund is innovative in design and operation. One of the ways in which the Global Fund add value is by providing accelerated, equitable and affordable access to medical innovation. As one of the largest providers of health commodities with an annual procurement spend of US\$2.5 billion, the Global Fund leverages economies of scale to provide the best value for money for health products through its pooled procurement mechanism. Pooling demands of more than 80 countries, the Global Fund leverages its scale in driving production efficiencies and achieving lower prices of lifesaving medicines. For HIV, the Global Fund worked with partners, including private sector manufacturers, to secure a further 20% reduction in the cost of antiretroviral medicines, bringing the annual cost to treat one person to as low as US\$37 (in contrast to about US\$10,000 when the Global Fund was created). The Global Fund continues to work with partners to accelerate access to innovative prevention tools, such as the dapivirine vaginal ring and injectable, long acting pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

The Global Fund is deepening its collaboration with partners and engagement with the wider private sector to identify promising new products, securing availability and affordability of those products and supporting their introduction in low- and middle-income countries. With advanced market commitments, including volume guarantees, the Global Fund is driving more affordable access to quality-assured health products and accelerate health product introductions and innovations at greater scale.

3.3. Catalytic role in mobilising resources for health

The Global Fund uses innovative finance initiatives to catalyse additional financing and influence existing partners' financing to support HIV, TB and malaria interventions and strengthen health systems. The Global Fund's Debt2Health mechanism converts countries' debt repayments into investments in public health. Australia was the one of the first donor countries to enter a Debt2Health agreement where a portion of Indonesia's debt was cancelled in 2010 and channelled to TB programs in Indonesia through a Global Fund grant.

Since 2017, 15 blended finance and joint investment transactions including a loan buy-down to support TB in Indonesia have been executed. To increase and accelerate the executions, the Global Fund and the Asia Development Bank have signed a memorandum of understanding to form transformative partnerships that strengthen health systems and promote universal health coverage. Considering significant overlaps in programmatic interests in Asia, this partnership is expected to further invigorate blended finance efforts in the region.

The Global Fund is a unique partnership – led by country partners, communities affected by the diseases and frontline health workers. It has demonstrated resilience and versatility, adapting rapidly to support countries in responding to the diverse challenges that affect them, and ensuring continued progress in the fight against the world’s leading infectious diseases. The results in the region provide further evidence of the efficiency and effectiveness of this unique partnership model that turns donor dollars into impact at scale. Failing to step up to the Global Fund’s Eighth Replenishment places ending AIDS, TB and malaria as public health threats and delivering on the SDG 3 ambition of

health and well-being for all at risk. **We urge Australia to commit to at least AU\$351 million to the Global Fund’s Eighth Replenishment.**

4. Strengthen and catalyse global leadership in addressing the intersection of Climate Change and Health challenges.

The Australian Government must continue to strengthen its commitment to addressing the intersection of climate change and health. Climate change is the biggest global health challenge of our time and is increasing health risks and disrupting healthcare services. It is disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations in low and middle-income countries and exacerbating inequalities in health outcomes [8].

Australia is the historical thought leader in this space through the work of Tony McMichael and Stephen Boyden and indeed the long history of leadership of First Nations academics and leaders such as Anna Poelina who live the inextricable link of country and health of all species.

Australia was the first country to appoint a Planetary Health Professor in Tony Capon at University of Sydney and continues to lead in the region research partnerships such as the Sydney Asia-Pacific Partnership for Health Innovations and Resilient Ecosystems (SAPPHIRE) which emphasises community participation, infectious and chronic disease control, health system strengthening, One Health adoption, climate change adaptation, and GEDSI integration for regional health security.

The Australian government is commended for its work on a National Health and Climate Strategy, and it is important that this commitment in leadership is extended to the region with the support of well-placed members of the global health community. This includes Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI), Melbourne Climate Futures, and the

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment (WHOCC-CCHIA) at Curtin University, to name only a few.

Multilateral organisations such as Gavi and the Global Fund are globally well positioned to address the intersection of climate change and health. The two organisations provide opportunities for Australia to champion the incorporation of health considerations into climate action frameworks, promoting holistic strategies that address both mitigation and adaptation.

Already 71% of the Global Fund's investments, including over 80% of its malaria funding, is being deployed in the 50 most climate-vulnerable countries, highlighting the reality that infectious diseases and climate change are hitting the same poorest and most marginalized communities the hardest. Moreover, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events exacerbates the threat from infectious diseases.

Recommendations: Invest in rapid and intentional capacity building in climate and health as a priority, in addition to current efforts to strengthen the focus on climate and health in established regional partnerships. This could be implemented through a specific program of climate and health fellowships with opportunities for international exchange between Australia and countries across our region.

4.1. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in partnership with the Gates Foundation and Sanofi through Foundation S has launched a US\$50 million Climate and Health Catalytic Fund ¹⁵

The Global Fund's Climate and Health Catalytic Fund will enable vulnerable countries to better address the health impacts of climate change. It will support ministries of health, communities and other country stakeholders to design and implement country-owned and locally led solutions to protect health from the escalating impacts of climate change, as well as develop robust proposals to increase future financing. It will also foster resilient health systems and promote the adoption of low-carbon, sustainable health care technologies.

Climate change poses significant challenges to global health systems, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries and exacerbating inequalities in health outcomes. As a responsible global actor, Australia has an opportunity to lead and collaborate in addressing these pressing issues.

¹⁵ Global Fund Unveils Pioneering Climate and Health Fund to Accelerate Global Action, acted by: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2025/2025-01-21-global-fund-unveils-pioneering-climate-and-health-fund-to-accelerate-global-action/>

4.2. Climate-Sensitive Vaccines and the Growing Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance

The twin threats of climate change and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) pose an urgent challenge to global health. As temperatures rise, climate-sensitive diseases like malaria and dengue are spreading more widely, placing millions at risk. Simultaneously, the slow pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is eroding the effectiveness of key medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the need for strong immunisation systems. Half of Gavi-supported vaccines target climate-sensitive diseases, such as malaria and cholera, which disproportionately affect communities in Asia and the Pacific. Gavi's investments in malaria and dengue vaccines will play a critical role in countering these expanding threats.

Dengue and malaria in Asia-Pacific:

- Dengue cases have surged due to rising temperatures and urbanisation, leading to increased outbreaks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- The Global Fund is the main donor to the malaria programs in PNG and the Solomon Islands. The Fund is currently the sole external funder supporting malaria case management (rapid diagnostic tools and treatment) and the main funder of long-lasting insecticidal nets in PNG.
- Utilizing the full malaria toolkit (mosquito nets, vaccines, seasonal malaria chemotherapy, etc), Gavi and the Global Fund are developing a model of collaboration with a focus on complementary programming, putting the countries first and optimizing health outcomes.

AMR and the role of vaccines:

- Vaccines are a key tool in combatting AMR by reducing the need for antibiotics and preventing infections before they occur.
- Gavi's continued investment in pneumococcal and typhoid vaccines directly addresses AMR by curbing diseases that are becoming increasingly resistant to treatment.

Future Strategy: Gavi's new strategic approach will prioritise vaccines that address both climate-sensitive diseases and AMR, ensuring Australia's investment aligns with pressing regional health threats.

END DOCUMENT