# Multilateral Health Partnerships

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The Value of Australia's Support for Gavi and The Global Fund in the Indo-Pacific Region

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Image: Gavi/Benedikt v.Loebell

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# Acknowledgments

This report has benefited from the insights and expertise of numerous health and development professionals. The author is particularly grateful to the nine experts who generously shared their time and knowledge through in-depth interviews (See Annex I for list of interviewees).

We extend our sincere appreciation to representatives from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for providing valuable institutional perspectives and technical insights that have enriched this analysis.

Special thanks to the Australian Global Health Alliance and Pacific Friends of the Global Fund for their guidance throughout this project. In particular, the author acknowledges the invaluable contributions of Associate Professor Helen Evans, Raylynn Benn, Selina Namchee Lo and Murray Proctor, for their strategic guidance, expert input and thoughtful review.

# Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome		International Finance Facility for Immunisation		
AUD	Australian Dollar	IPV	Inactivated Polio Vaccine		
AMC	Advance Market Commitment	LMICs	Low and Middle-Income Countries		
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	MDR/RR-1	<sup>rB</sup> Multidrug-resistant/Rifampicin-resistant Tuberculosis		
ССМ	Country Coordinating Mechanism	MICs			
C19RM	COVID-19 Response Mechanism		Middle-Income Countries		
DCVMN	Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network	NCD	Non-Communicable Disease		
		NMCP	National Malaria Control Program		
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)	ODA	Official Development Assistance		
DHIS2	District Health Information Software 2	PCV	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine		
DTP	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis	PHR	Partnerships for a Healthy Region		
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization	PNG	Papua New Guinea		
ЕОРО	End of Program Outcomes	RAI	Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative		
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion	ROI	Return on Investment SIDS - Small Island Developing States		
GNI - Gross National Income					
		STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection		
HIV - HI	uman Immunodeficiency Virus	тв	Tuberculosis		
HPV	Human Papillomavirus		Tuberculosis		
	International Coordinating Committee	USD	United States Dollar		
ICC		wно	World Health Organization		

# **Executive Summary**

Multilateral health partnerships are essential for improving health outcomes in the Indo-Pacific, with Gavi and the Global Fund's activities in the region demonstrating exceptional returns on investments and saving millions of lives through innovative financing, market shaping, and strengthened health systems. Multilateral health partnerships remain critical strategic investments for securing the region's long-term health security and development.

Multilateral health partnerships remain a cornerstone of global health cooperation, providing essential mechanisms to improve health outcomes and accelerate socioeconomic development worldwide. Recent years have seen growing discourse relating to terminology used to understand regional boundaries, with "Asia-Pacific", "Indo-Pacific", and "Western Pacific" used interchangeable depending on institutional or geopolitical contexts. While each term has regional relevance, conceptually they are distinct. For the purposes of this report Indo-Pacific will be used because that has been the term most used throughout the review documents and recent history they represent. In the Indo-Pacific region specifically, these partnerships have proven instrumental in addressing complex health challenges while fostering sustainable development and regional stability. Multilateral health organisations like Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance ("Gavi") and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria ("Global Fund"), have been able to pool resources, share expertise, and implement large-scale health initiatives that would be difficult to achieve through bilateral efforts alone.

Australia's health aid in the Indo-Pacific through both bilateral and multilateral partnerships, has been instrumental in driving progress in health outcomes in the region. Australia has supported the Global Fund since 2004, with AUD1.34 billion committed to date and Gavi since 2000, with AUD1.6 billion committed to date.

Despite notable progress, the Indo-Pacific still faces significant health challenges, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The region still accounts for 25% of global infections, with 6.7 million people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)<sup>1</sup>. Malaria is still rampant in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the threat of artemisinin-resistant malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion is a strong call for elimination of the disease in Southeast Asia. The tuberculosis (TB) burden across Indonesia, the Philippines and PNG is still considerable, with multi-drug-resistant TB causing additional concern. Additionally, noncommunicable diseases account for 87% of deaths in the Western Pacific region", with a significant cervical cancer burden.

The Western Pacific is a WHO-defined region encompassing 37 member states in Indo-Pacific - see list here.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Asia Pacific" broadly refers to the region encompassing East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania, often used in economic and development contexts. "Indo-Pacific" is a strategic and geopolitical term which includes countries bordering the Indian and Pacific Oceans, commonly used in foreign policy and security discourse. "Western Pacific" is a term defined by the World Health Organisation to include 37 member states and areas in Asia and the Pacific, including China, Japan and Australia. See Table 1 at section 4.2 of this report for a list of DFAT priority countries across Asia (Southeast Asia, South and Central Asia) and the Pacific.

Sustained partnership and increased investments in both Gavi and the Global Fund are important to continue driving impact in terms of improved health outcomes globally and in Indo Pacific. Both organisations demonstrate exceptional returns on investment (ROI):

- → Gavi-supported vaccination programmes deliver significant economic benefits: Globally, each USD 1 of investment in immunisation brings USD 54 in wider economic benefits.
  - Between 2000 and 2023, Gavi spent US\$ 5.4 billion in the South-East Asia and Pacific region. During this period Gavi-supported vaccination programs delivered USD22.4 billion in economic benefits to the region. In its 2021–2025 programme, Gavi is spending US\$ 496 million in the region<sup>2</sup>.
- → The total investment of US\$12.6 billion by the Global Fund in the Indo-Pacific region is estimated to have spurred US\$230.4 billion in long-term health gains and direct productivity gains of US\$80.6 billion³.
  - Every dollar invested in the Global Fund mobilises approximately USD13.60 for health initiatives in Indo-Pacific countries, making it an extremely efficient channel for regional health investment.
  - In the Pacific region, US\$558 million in investments has spurred US\$10.2 billion in long-term health gains and direct productivity gains of US\$3.6 billion<sup>4</sup>.

Additionally, both Gavi and the Global Fund have led to significant and notable improvements in regional health outcomes:

- Australian support to Gavi has enabled Gavi to immunise more than 100 million children, averting close to 2 million deaths in the South-East Asia and Pacific. This includes more than 27,400 cervical cancer deaths averted as a result of the Gavi-backed roll-out of the HPV vaccine in six countries in the region<sup>5</sup>.
- The Global Fund has saved 26.4 million lives in the Indo-Pacific, including 210,000 lives in 14 Pacific Island countries since 20026. There has been a 51% reduction in AIDS-related deaths in Asia-Pacific between 2010-2023. Additionally, the Greater Mekong Subregion is coming close to eliminating malaria and the threat of drug-resistant malaria. There has also been significant progress in high TB burden countries. The Global Fund invests in five of the top eight countries with the highest TB burden globally including: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Specifically in the Pacific Island countries, the Global Fund invests in PNG, which has one of the highest TB and multi-drug-resistant TB prevalence rates globally7. In PNG, the Global Fund investments led to treatment coverage for TB reaching 80% in 20228.

A healthier Indo-Pacific is crucial for promoting trade, fostering economic growth, and ensuring lasting security—creating a cycle of shared success that advances both regional development and Australia's long-term interests. To this end, multilateral health organisations, such as Gavi and the Global Fund, serve as powerful force multipliers for Australia's investments and development efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. Their unique advantages stem from their ability to leverage additional funding sources, operate with political neutrality, and extend reach into areas where Australia has limited presence. By combining scale, neutrality,

extensive reach, and specialised expertise, these organisations can effectively mobilise resources and knowledge to address complex health challenges that no single country can tackle alone.

Multilateralism offers several advantages, including promoting financial sustainability, influencing market dynamics, implementing innovative financing approaches, their contribution to strengthening health systems and supporting pandemic preparedness globally:

- → Financial sustainability: Both Gavi and the Global Fund leverage economies of scale and co-financing requirements to catalyse substantial domestic resource mobilisation. For instance, Gavi's success is shown by country financing for vaccine spending rising from 8% to 39% between 2011 and 2025, with 19 countries transitioning to self-financing during this time. Meanwhile, the Global Fund is aiming to scale up domestic investments to USD59 billion through its 7th replenishment, enhancing country ownership and ensuring long-term program stability.
- → Market shaping: Gavi and the Global Fund shape healthcare markets through pooled procurement and demand aggregation. From 2000 to 2022, Gavi expanded the number of vaccine manufacturers from 5 to 19 and achieved significant vaccine price reductions, such as pentavalent vaccine (DTP-HepB-Hib) market price approximately sits between US\$11-13 per dose, yet Gavi is able to purchase for under US\$3 per does saving 75% of cost price The Global Fund secured major cost savings, including a 99% price reduction for HIV medicines over past the 20 years and 55% for drug-resistant TB treatments in 2023. Their collective purchasing power delivers price reductions that individual countries cannot negotiate, benefiting smaller Pacific nations with limited market leverage.

- → Innovative financing models: Gavi and the Global Fund have developed innovative financing approaches that enable rapid responses to health emergencies, reduce vaccine costs, and generate substantial funding for global health programs. For instance, Gavi's International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), which has raised over USD 9.7 billion through vaccine bonds. 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 such as Debt2Health that convert debt into health investments and (RED) program that mobilises private sector resources.
- → Health systems strengthening: Gavi and the Global Fund strengthen health systems through investments in immunisation with basic immunisation coverage in Gavi-supported countries having increased from 59% to 80% since 2000, and through programs addressing the three main infectious diseases—HIV/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), TB, and malaria. For instance, the Global Fund is investing around USD2 billion annually in critical components of resilient and sustainable systems for health such as laboratory networks, health workforce, surveillance systems, supply chain, health data systems and community systems over 2024-2026 implementation period.
- → Pandemic Preparedness and Response:

  Multilateral mechanisms are well-placed to respond swiftly in crises. For example, in response to COVID-19, Gavi and the Global Fund leveraged their existing programs, partnerships, and infrastructure, expanding services to support the pandemic response. Their trusted relationships with countries and significant resources enabled rapid action. Continued investment in these organisations will enable the Indo-Pacific region to stay prepared to tackle future health threats.

This report acknowledges that the competition for limited resources among multilateral organisations, with replenishment cycles happening simultaneously leads to added pressure on donors. Implementation effectiveness can often be constrained by burdensome reporting requirements that may not align with local contexts' capabilities or may require further training. Multilateral health organisations need to be able to account for the challenges that are unique to Pacific nations, and this takes time and engagement in the region. These limitations however are ultimately outweighed by multilaterals' unique capacity to leverage economies of scale, mobilize substantial resources, and deliver systematic health improvements that individual country efforts cannot match.

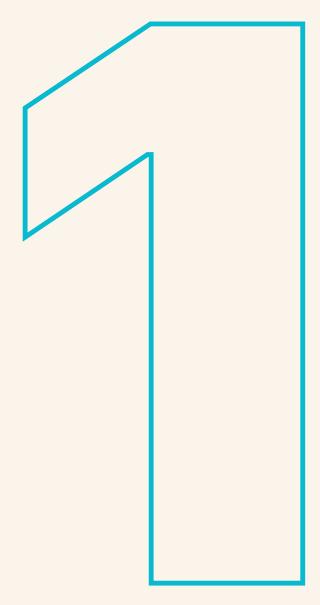
Additionally, multilateral aid complements
Australia's bilateral efforts. Without the synergistic power of these investments, the Pacific would face catastrophic consequences with each new outbreak of preventable illnesses, ultimately placing a greater burden on Australia for support. This report highlights several regional success stories to illustrate the complementary of bilateral and multilateral aid for improved health outcomes:

- → Papua New Guinea: Combined multilateral and Australian bilateral aid to PNG achieved 80% TB treatment coverage in 20229. In addition, 400,000 children received access to vaccines for the first time10.
- → Timor Leste: Combined investments led to significant progress toward cervical cancer elimination thanks to a comprehensive HPV vaccination program. In addition, Timor Leste submitted an official request for WHO certification of malaria-free status in 2023.
- → Indonesia: multilateral health organisations have enabled four million children to access pneumococcal vaccines at a quarter of the commercial cost and has supported the National Malaria Control Program that has made significant progress towards declaring additional districts malaria free every year.

The report offers four **key recommendations** for Australia's consideration, highlighting the importance of:

- Increasing overall Official Development Assistance to 1% of Australian government spending.
- Sustaining long-term, predictable funding for multilateral organisations
- 3. Encouraging greater collaboration between multilateral partners
- Strengthening Australia's strategic engagement in governance mechanisms of multilateral health partnerships to ensure Indo-Pacific regional priorities remain central to the global health agenda.

The growing and inextricably linked challenges of climate change, geopolitical instability, and competing demands for limited resources threaten to reverse progress. As a regional leader, Australia must maintain and enhance its commitment to both bilateral and multilateral health partnerships. These commitments are not merely financial investments but strategic imperatives that will help secure the health, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region for decades to come.1



Introduction:
The Health
Landscape
in the
Indo-Pacific
Region

The Indo-Pacific region faces a complex and evolving health landscape, with a dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that continues to challenge national healthcare systems and regional health security<sup>11</sup>.

Against this landscape, multilateral organisations like Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), have played an indispensable role in driving progress. Australia has been a key partner to these organisations, contributing financial support, actively engaged at the governance level and utilising its bilateral relationships to enable tangible improvements in health outcomes across the region.

However, the region now faces growing challenges that threaten to reverse much of the progress made. Climate change is amplifying environmental disruptions, driving disease outbreaks, and straining already fragile health systems. Geopolitical instability, migration and food shortages are increasing health risks for those most in need, while economic uncertainty is making it harder to secure consistent funding for health programs<sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup>.

Meanwhile, the multilateral aid landscape itself is under pressure, with many donor countries falling short of their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and core multilateral funding declining since 2010<sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup>. The competition for limited resources is intensifying, with a surge of upcoming replenishments for multilateral initiatives, including for Gavi and the Global Fund, potentially limiting the funding available to support all priorities<sup>18</sup>. Additionally, the proliferation of new funds, political shifts and election uncertainties in major donor countries further complicate decision-making, creating a highly fragmented funding landscape<sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup>.

To build on the progress already achieved and to avoid setbacks, Australia must take decisive action. This report outlines key recommendations on Australia's multilateral aid partnership, with a specific focus on Gavi and the Global Fund. These organisations provide indispensable support and expertise, as no country on its own can fully tackle the world's complex health security challenges alone. A healthier Indo-Pacific is crucial for promoting trade, fostering economic growth, and ensuring lasting security—creating a cycle of shared success that benefits both the region and Australia's long-term interests.



The Value and Impact of Australia's Multilateral Health Investments

Australia's investment in the Global Fund and Gavi has delivered exceptional returns. Investments in both multilateral health organisations have transformed health outcomes across the region and saved millions of lives. These investments have contributed to the stability and development of the Indo-pacific region.

# 2.1 Australia's Multilateral Partnership Portfolio: Contributions to Gavi and the Global Fund

The Global Fund and Gavi are two of the largest multilateral health organisations, each playing a crucial role in global health security. Gavi has been instrumental in improving global immunisation coverage since 2000, working to ensure equitable access to vaccines in lower-income countries and vulnerable populations. The Global Fund, established in 2002, leads the global fight against three of the world's deadliest infectious diseases while strengthening health and community systems and accelerating universal health coverage. Together, these organisations mobilise significant resources and technical expertise to support sustainable health improvements in partner countries, with a particular focus on reaching the most vulnerable populations and strengthening health system resilience.

Australia has been a supporter of Gavi since 2000. As of June 2025, Australia committed over AUD1.6 billion in total including 797.5 million in

direct contributions, 129 million through COVAX<sup>21</sup> and AUD287.5 in long-term investment via the

International Finance Facility for Immunisationiii

(IFFIm)<sup>22</sup>. Australia's total commitment to Gavi for the period 2021-2025 specifically is AUD458 million. This multi-channel funding approach combines direct contributions (AUD300 million) with innovative financing through IFFIm (AUD72 million) and targeted support for COVID-19 response via the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) (AUD86 million). The long-term commitment to IFFIm (extending to the year 2037) demonstrates Australia's understanding of the need for sustainable, predictable funding in global health, particularly for immunisation programs that require multi-year planning horizons and certainty of funding when negotiating vaccine prices. Historical contribution patterns show consistent scaling of support aligned with Gavi's expanded mandate and Australia's growing recognition of vaccination as a cost-effective health intervention.

Australia has also supported the Global Fund since

2004, with AUD1.34 billion committed to date<sup>23</sup>.

- → The Indo-Pacific is the world's largest HIV epidemic centre after eastern and southern Africa—6.7 million people living with HIV.
- → Among the high-burden countries that account for the majority of global TB cases each year, five are from the Indo-Pacific region—India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- → The region accounts for 45% of the estimated malaria burden outside the African region, which bears the heaviest burden of malaria in the world.
- → The Western Pacific region accounts for one fourth of the global cervical cancer burden, and approximately 90% of that burden is in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

For more background information, see Annex III —Health Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Post-Pandemic

iii IFFm is a unique mechanism that delivers up front resources to Gavi via the bond markets to facilitate market shaping.

As the 12<sup>th</sup> largest donor to the Global Fund (as of 31/12/2024), Australia is a significant contributor and advocate for the Indo Pacific region<sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup>. The latest pledge of AUD266 million for the 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment round (2024-2026 implementation period) represents a 10% increase from previous commitments<sup>26</sup>. Of its commitment to the Global Fund, 10% is set aside for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to provide technical assistance and capacity building in countries in Indo Pacific which complements the Global Fund supported programs<sup>27</sup>. Despite being a

mid-sized contributor to the Global Fund, Australia has successfully leveraged its position to advocate for Indo-Pacific priorities. It has maintained an influential engagement with the Global Fund through its representation on the board, active participation in board committees, and the contributions of the Ambassador for Global Health. For this 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment implementation period, the Global Fund has allocated a total of USD2.2 billion<sup>28</sup> (AUD3.4 billion) to the Indo-Pacific, with USD100 million allocated to the Pacific specifically<sup>29</sup>.

## 2.2 Economic Returns and Health Impact: Measuring Investment Effectiveness

High returns on investment (ROI) have been reported across both multilateral organisations.

Gavi's investments in vaccination programs yield substantial economic returns. Globally, each USD1 of investment in immunisation by Gavi brings USD54 in wider economic benefits<sup>30</sup>. Immunisation programmes in lower-income countries supported by Gavi have generated more than US\$ 220.5 billion in economic benefits since 2000. As the Alliance prepares to immunise people against more diseases and more quickly, the economic benefits between 2026 and 2030 are expected to be at least US\$ 1 billion<sup>31</sup>. Between 2000 and 2023, Gavi helped vaccinate more than 1.1 billion children globally against deadly diseases, saving more than 18.8 million lives<sup>32</sup>.

For the Indo Pacific, a total investment of USD \$12.6 billion by the Global Fund is estimated to have spurred USD230.4 billion in long-term health gains and direct productivity gains of USD 80.6 billion<sup>33</sup>. This includes US\$558 million in investments in the

Pacific which has spurred US\$10.2 billion in long-term health gains and direct productivity gains of US\$3.6 billion<sup>iv</sup>. Investments in the Global Fund have been a catalyst for further resource mobilisation—for every dollar invested by Australia, approximately USD13.60 is mobilised for health initiatives in priority countries within the Indo-Pacific region<sup>34</sup>. This multiplier effect of Australia's contributions illustrates how multilateral engagement effectively leverages additional resources for regional health priorities, maximising the impact of Australian taxpayer contributions.

The progress the Global Fund has made in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria has freed up essential resources and capacities in health care systems to address other diseases. As a result, health and community systems are now better equipped to respond to outbreaks and pandemics and to provide vital health interventions, such as those related to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. By the end of 2023, investments from the Global Fund in HIV, TB and malaria programs are estimated

iv This estimate assesses the economic value of better health and a more productive society by quantifying productivity and consumption gains, including through household savings, and calculating that each person who goes on lifesaving treatment is a potential contributor to the economic health of a community. These extraordinary benefit-cost ratios show the powerful economic effect of smart spending to fight the three diseases.

14 <u>www.ausglobalhealth.org</u>

to have freed up 2.9 billion hospitalization days and averted 5.5 billion outpatient visits, generating US\$103 billion in cost savings<sup>35</sup>. Annually, this translates to 131 million hospitalization days and 249 million outpatient visits, saving US\$4.7 billion. To put these findings into perspective, on average, these efficiencies represent 22% of all available hospital beds in over 100 countries where the Global Fund invests<sup>36</sup>.

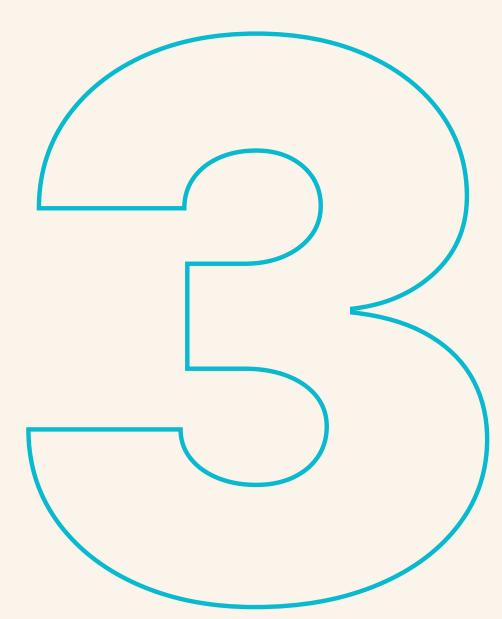
The Global Fund and Gavi's interventions have significantly contributed to improved health outcomes. Since 2002, the Global Fund has invested in programs to fight the three diseases and build resilient and sustainable health and community systems in 30 countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including 14 Pacific Island Countries. The Global Fund's interventions have saved 26.4 million lives in the Indo Pacific through various programs<sup>37</sup>, including an estimated 210,000 lives in the Pacific<sup>38</sup>. This represents transformative impact at scale, with recent achievements in HIV, TB, and malaria demonstrating continued programmatic effectiveness despite COVID-19 disruptions. The 51% reduction in AIDS-related deaths (2010-2023) in Asia-Pacific showcases how sustained investment can dramatically alter disease trajectories40.

In the region specifically, the Global Fund invests in five of the top eight countries with the highest TB burden globally including: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which accounted for more than two-thirds of the global TB incident cases in 2023<sup>41</sup>. PNG also has one of the highest TB and Multidrug-resistant/Rifampicinresistant Tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB) prevalence rates globally but has made notable progress against the disease. Treatment coverage for TB was at 80% in 2022, with treatment success rates of 73% for TB and 72% for MDR-TB<sup>39</sup>. (Read more

about the health outcomes improvements in the PNG case study at Annex IV)

Australia's support for both multilateral organisations has established its credibility as a reliable partner in regional health security, particularly valuable in the current geopolitical context where health cooperation serves as a stabilising force in international relations. Despite not being among the largest donors globally, Australia's targeted engagement and advocacy for Indo-Pacific interests has driven positive economic and social progress as well as reforms for better governance. Investment in multilateral health initiatives represent an effective pathway for supporting poverty reduction and economic development in the region, with health improvements directly contributing to workforce productivity and social stability40.

The counterfactual is clear, without such multilateral investments in infectious disease and immunisations programs, the fragile states of the Pacific would face catastrophic consequences at every new outbreak of preventable illnesses, which would in turn bear a burden on Australia for support.



The Role of Multilateral Organisations in Driving Impact

Australia's investments in multilateral health organisations like Gavi and the Global Fund deliver exceptional value-for-money through economies of scale, market shaping, and innovative financing, multiplying every dollar invested into significant health impacts across the Indo-Pacific region. These multilateral partnerships strengthen regional health security by building robust health systems and pandemic preparedness capabilities, while ensuring Australia maintains strategic influence over health priorities in the Indo-Pacific

Multilateral aid plays a vital role in Australia's development efforts, advancing its international development objectives by leveraging resources, expertise, and global reach. Approximately onethird of Australia's health aid budget is allocated to multilateral organisations, which offer several distinct advantages<sup>41</sup>.

- Multilateral organisations can amplify impact by unlocking additional funding and catalysing access to Australian innovation.
- With their political neutrality, these organisations can address health challenges free from political or diplomatic constraints<sup>42</sup>.

- → Multilateral organisations can extend their reach into regions where Australia has limited presence, enabling them to address health issues in underserved and hard-to-reach areas<sup>43</sup>.
- → These organisations bring high levels of relevant expertise and knowledge to their development mandates, focusing on specific priorities and drawing on global experience to deliver effective solutions<sup>44</sup>.

The synergy between Australia's bilateral and multilateral aid investments is key to addressing the complex and evolving health challenges in the region.

## 3.1 The Specific Advantages of Gavi and the Global Fund

Australia's partnership with Gavi and the Global Fund ensures that its regional priorities, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, are reflected and prioritised in their global agendas<sup>45</sup>. These organisations offer an efficient and scalable way to address regional health security challenges<sup>46</sup>.

#### a. Encouraging financial sustainability

Firstly, multilateral organisations maximise the impact of their activities due to economies of scale. By pooling funding across donors, as well as through domestic co-financing multilateral mechanisms like the Global Fund and Gavi maximise efficiencies. Gavi's co-financing requirement for example is designed to ensure long term sustainability of immunisation programs, by requiring countries to co-pay. That co-payment increases as a country develops economically until it is eventually self-financing its vaccine programs<sup>47</sup>.

Country financing including co-financing and self-financing has increased from 8 to 39% of total vaccine spending in Gavi countries between 2011 and 2025, with 19 countries transitioning to self-financing during this time<sup>48</sup>. The success in catalysing domestic resources demonstrates how multilateral engagement can gradually build country ownership of health programs, creating sustainable financing transitions that maintain program effectiveness while reducing donor dependency.

Similarly, the Global Fund acts as a powerful catalyst for domestic resource mobilisation through co-financing requirements. The aim of the Global Fund's 7th replenishment is to catalyse scale-up of domestic investments of up to USD59 billion toward ending the three diseases and strengthening systems for health through co-financing requirements and technical assistance on health financing<sup>49</sup>.

#### b. Market Shaping

Both Gavi and the Global Fund are instrumental at influencing market dynamics (from demand, supply to pricing of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines) to improve the availability and affordability of health products for all.

Gavi's market-shaping model has made vaccines more accessible and affordable for lower-income countries<sup>50</sup>. By aggregating and co-financing demand for vaccines, Gavi creates economies of scale, reduces transaction costs, and signals to manufacturers a stable and predictable market, encouraging them to lower vaccine prices<sup>51</sup>. According to Gavi's latest 2023 Mid-Term Review Report, significant price decreases have been achieved in the PCV, HPV, IPV and Rota markets<sup>52</sup>.

Since its establishment in 2000, Gavi has transformed the vaccine landscape, increasing the number of manufacturers supplying prequalified vaccines from 5 to 19 in 2022, with over half based in LMICs53. Gavi's efforts have expanded and diversified its manufacturer base and developed demand forecasts to provide long-term market visibility. Gavi's pooled procurement model has fostered the emergence of several new suppliers from India, South Korea, Russia, Brazil, China, and Indonesia, many of whom are now part of the Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers Network (DCVMN)54. Currently, there are 19 different vaccine manufacturers across 12 different countries that supply Gavi's core portfolio55. This diversification has great value given recent supply chain disruptions.

Through pooled demand, and long-term financing commitments, Gavi has significantly sped-up vaccine availability and enhanced equity in access to vaccines, enabling the simultaneous introduction of vaccines like HPV in both high- and low-income countries<sup>56</sup>. These efforts have directly benefited Gavi-supported countries but also created positive spillovers into countries not eligible for Gavi support<sup>57</sup>.

Similarly, the Global Fund's market shaping efforts play a critical role in making health products more affordable, accessible, and reliable in LMICs<sup>58</sup>. Half of the Global Fund 's annual disbursement is dedicated to the procurement of health products of which more than half are procured through the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism. This mechanism has transformed access to these products globally, with collective purchasing power achieving price reductions that would be impossible for individual countries to negotiate. This is particularly beneficial for smaller Pacific nations with limited market leverage.

As the largest financier of HIV, TB, and malaria programs in these countries, the Global Fund leverages its significant scale to negotiate better supply terms, ensure supply reliability, and accelerate access to innovations that benefit all. Through collaborations with countries, funders, and product developers, the Global Fund drives down prices, increases demand, and enhances access to essential health products<sup>59</sup>.

By shaping and maintaining healthy product markets across the entire supply chain, the Global Fund has helped secure affordable pricing for critical HIV, TB, and malaria medicines and health products enabling countries to expand coverage while directing resources towards other important health priorities<sup>60</sup>. In 2023 alone, the Global Fund's pooled procurement platform supported procurement for 81 countries, with a total value of \$1.34 billion<sup>61</sup>. The Global Fund's efforts have led to remarkable price reductions, including a 99% decrease in the cost of antiretroviral medicines over the past 20 years for HIV treatment<sup>62</sup> and cost of an insecticide- treated mosquito net decreased from \$3.03 in 2014 to less than US\$2.03 in 202363. In TB treatment, the Global Fund achieved a 55% reduction in the price of the main treatment for drug-resistant TB in 202364. Through initiatives like the Revolving Facility, the Global Fund has also supported the introduction of innovative health products, such as dual active ingredient insecticide-treated bed nets, at a comparable price to conventional nets, to provide better protection against insecticide-resistant

mosquitoes<sup>65</sup> 66. These accomplishments not only improve access to life-saving treatments but also ensure sustainable, long-term market solutions for health products in LMICs

#### c. Innovative Financing Models

Innovative financing mechanisms within Gavi and the Global Fund have created new pathways for resource mobilisation, demonstrating how multilateral cooperation can unlock additional funding sources and create more predictable financing flows for essential health programs<sup>67</sup>.

One example of such mechanisms is Gavi's IFFIm established in 2006. IFFIm's unique financing model is built upon partnerships between donor countries, private investors, the World Bank, and Gavi<sup>68 69 70 71</sup>. IFFIm receives long term, legally binding pledges from donor countries and, with the help of the World Bank, turns these pledges into vaccine bonds. Money raised via vaccine bonds provide upfront funding for Gavi's vaccination programs, enabling faster action to protect communities and act quickly and effectively in global health crises<sup>72</sup>. For instance, IFFIm facilitated Gavi's ability to respond swiftly to emergencies such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, where IFFIm's frontloading supported over 90% of COVAX pledges73. Notably, IFFIm played a crucial role in reducing the cost of the pentavalent vaccine by enabling early payments to suppliers, resulting in a significant price drop from USD8.95 in 2010 to USD2.81 in 202374. This reduction, driven by greater competition in the vaccine market, has made it possible to immunise millions of children more affordably. To date, IFFIm has raised over USD 9.7 billion, contributing 17% of Gavi's overall funding<sup>75</sup> 76 77.

Similarly, the Global Fund employs a variety of innovative financing mechanisms to complement its core funding model and accelerate global health progress. One key example is the private sector resource mobilisation effort (RED), which, as of January 2025, (RED) has generated over USD785 million to support the fight against HIV and AIDS in Africa through the Global Fund <sup>78</sup>. Since 2017, the Global Fund has also executed 15 blended finance transactions including a loan buy-down to support TB in Indonesia with the World Bank.

Another innovative financing channel is the Global Fund 's Debt2Health program launched in 2007, which converts debt repayments into lifesaving health investments. Through individually negotiated "debt swap" agreements, implementing countries agree to invest in programs combating the three diseases or strengthening health systems, in exchange for debt cancellation by creditor countries. To date, the Global Fund has conducted 14 transactions, generating USD329 million in health funding for 11 debtor countries and US\$470 million in debt cancelled by Australia, Germany, and Spain through the D2H initiative 79 80. The Global Fund 's Debt2Health program demonstrates how multilateral aid can address critical financing challenges while furthering the development goals of both donor and recipient nations. In 2010, Australia and Indonesia agreed to cancel AUD75 million of Indonesia's debt in exchange for an investment of around half that amount (AUD37.5 million) into Indonesia's national TB program through the Global Fund<sup>81 82</sup>. This debt swap not only alleviated Indonesia's financial burden but also provided significant support to Indonesia's TB control efforts. The program illustrates how multilateral aid mechanisms can effectively align with Australia's bilateral priorities, ensuring that funds are directed towards critical health interventions that benefit the entire region<sup>83</sup>.

v Including Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Indonesia, Mongolia Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

The Global Fund's blended finance initiatives also play a crucial role in accelerating health progress in the Indo-Pacific region. Through expanding collaborations with institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the Global Fund leverages additional resources to scale health programs and foster sustainable and impactful health investments. Since 2017, the World Bank and the Global Fund have supported many countries by investing with blended finance transactions. For example, a loan buydown in India helped increase financing for TB care and prevention84. In Indonesia, innovative buydown funding was linked to improved detection of TB cases, better treatment coverage, and reforms in provider payments to incentivize primary care<sup>85</sup>.

Additionally, the Global Fund uses results-based and outcome-based financing mechanisms, linking funding to the achievement of specific health outcomes. For example, in the Solomon Islands, the Global Fund has supported results-based financing models, and the Fund is exploring outcome-based financing approach to malaria elimination in Asia<sup>86</sup>.

#### d. Health Systems Strengthening

Investments in Gavi and the Global Fund also supports general health systems strengthening. Both organisations recognise that immunisation programs and disease-specific interventions must be underpinned by robust health infrastructure; including a trained health care workforce (including community health workers); strengthened laboratories, improved diagnostic tools, better supply chain management, more robust information and financial systems<sup>87</sup> 88. The Global Fund invests around USD2 billion annually in strengthening health systems<sup>vi 89</sup> 90. Investments in the three diseases also drive advancement towards universal health

coverage, ensuring more people worldwide can access quality health services without financial hardship.

The increased focus on integrating community systems and bolstering healthcare delivery across sectors creates sustainable improvements in health access, particularly valuable in the diverse geographic and cultural context of the Indo-Pacific. Gavi invests in training a new cadre of female health workers in Pakistan to improve immunisation coverage and collaborates with civil society to reach hard-to-access populations in Afghanistan<sup>91</sup>. The Global Fund's regional grant in Greater Mekong sub-Region has built a community-level network of more than 35,000 malaria workers – also called village malaria workers – to provide services in the communities they know best, under the supervision of national malaria control programs<sup>92</sup>.

Both the Global Fund and Gavi have invested specifically in strengthening data systems. Since 2017, the Global Fund has been working in collaboration with other partners to improve timely access to quality health data collaboration. Between 2021 and 2023, the Global Fund invested more than US\$150 million a year to strengthen health and information systems and improve data availability and quality, including the rollout of digital tools for community health workers, digitizing health data<sup>93</sup>.

Additionally, more than 40 countries received support from Gavi to integrate coverage data into District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2), the world's largest health management information system<sup>94</sup>. This enables more targeted interventions and efficient resource allocation, essential for countries with limited health budgets. Gavi encourages countries to collect sex-disaggregated data on immunisation coverage to provide countries with a better understanding of the specific barriers

vi This figure is based on the recently endorsed Global Fund Strategy Committee methodology that integrates direct investments in resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH) and contributions to RSSH through investments in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria (contributory RSSH). The amount is derived from approved and signed grant budgets and RSSH related catalytic investments and includes C19RM. This methodology excludes Global Fund Secretariat operating expenses.

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faced by women and girls in accessing vaccines. This information can support the implementation of targeted strategies to improve vaccination rates among these populations, thereby promoting gender equity in health<sup>95</sup>.

#### e. Pandemic Preparedness and Response

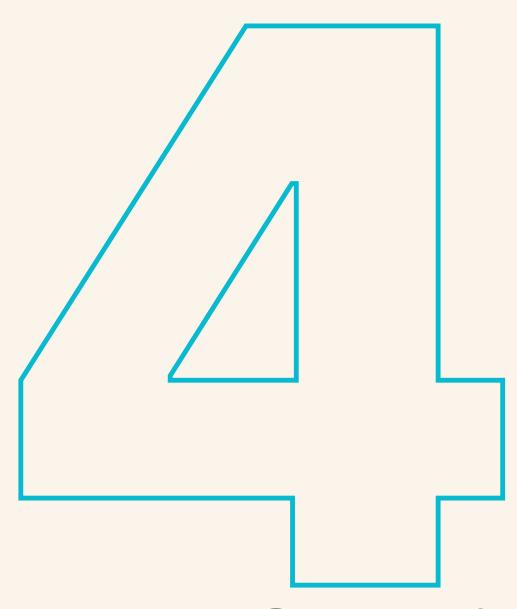
Investing in the Gavi and the Global Fund is also an effective way to support global and regional pandemic preparedness and response. By investing in building stronger health infrastructure, Gavi and the Global Fund are preparing countries for the next health crisis<sup>96 97</sup> and supporting global and regional health security 98 99. As early as 2014, the Global Fund established an Emergency Fund which provides guick and flexible financing in emergencies to ensure the continuity of existing HIV, TB and malaria programs and services. COVID-19 further underpinned the need to invest in health systems from strengthening laboratory networks, a larger health workforce to building more resilient supply chains so that no future pandemic would disrupt progress against the three diseases<sup>100</sup>. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gavi and the Global Fund demonstrated their agility in pandemic response. Gavi led vaccine distribution through COVAX, delivering nearly 2 billion doses by May 2023 and strengthening health systems in 87 countries. Simultaneously, the Global Fund, through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) allocated close to USD5 billion to support diagnostics, treatments, and public health measures for 125 applicants. These efforts not only addressed immediate needs but also reinforced countries' capacities to combat future pandemics<sup>101</sup>.

We learned from the COVAX initiative that countries with strong immunisation programs were better positioned to respond quickly to a pandemic and that vaccination is a key component of global health security<sup>102</sup>. Gavi's model is adapting to repurpose innovations under COVAX as part of its core set

of tools<sup>103</sup>. For example, data and analytics were developed to quickly monitor COVID-19 vaccine distribution and uptake. This is now driving evidence-based vaccine delivery strategies and boosting equitable access to vaccines and will be useful knowledge in the next health crisis<sup>104</sup>.

Multilateral mechanisms are well positioned to respond swiftly in crisis situations, by leveraging on their existing partnerships and infrastructure, and expanding existing services to support the pandemic response. Existing tools and services were repurposed to meet several needs; for example, the GeneXpert diagnostic machine for TB was used to detect COVID-19, and community health workers who while out looking for COVID-19 cases were also looking for cases of TB and malaria. Thereby capturing cases of disease which would otherwise have been missed due to gaps in service delivery for those most in need The ability of multilateral organisations to leverage existing partnerships and infrastructure proved crucial for regional emergency response capability. Investing in multilateral organisations is therefore also an investment in pandemic preparedness and response and ensures that countries are better prepared for the next health threat 105.

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# Alignment with Australia's Development Policy Priorities

The Global Fund and Gavi's strategic objectives are aligned with Australia's Indo-Pacific development goals, delivering climate-resilient health systems, advancing gender equality, and strengthening community-led solutions. Their proven ability to adapt to regional needs, particularly in the Pacific, makes them important partners for advancing Australia's regional health security objectives.

## 4.1 Advancing Australia's Indo-Pacific Development Goals

Australia's international development policy focuses on fostering a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region through sustainable development and poverty reduction initiatives. Central to this mission is the Australian Partnerships for a Health Region (PHR) initiative (2023-2027). The initiative includes an investment of AUD620 million to support partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region to build resilient and equitable health systems. The PHR initiative represents Australia's commitment to global health, equity with a particular focus on marginalised groups, health security and enhancing pandemic preparedness across the Indo-Pacific region. This commitment requires sustained action across multiple development programs and partnerships.

The current international development policy maintains its geographic focus on the Indo-Pacific region as Australia's primary area for bilateral engagement<sup>106</sup>. This regional emphasis is complemented by Australia's long-standing dedication to promoting gender equality, social inclusion, and disability rights within its development programs. These areas represent established strengths where Australia has developed significant sectoral expertise. Since 2022, the Government has elevated climate resilience as a key priority, acknowledging the intrinsic connection between domestic and international climate action and its closed interconnectedness with health. This commitment is reflected in the integration of climate change objectives within the Performance and Delivery Framework<sup>107</sup>. Australia's development objectives emphasise partnership and collaboration, focusing on three key areas: supporting partners in building effective and accountable states capable of driving their own development; strengthening state and community resilience against external pressures and shocks; and fostering collective action on global challenges affecting the Indo-Pacific region.

Under Australia's international development objectives, the PHR initiative outlines five End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs) that align with the strategic objectives and activities of both the Global Fund and Gavi<sup>108</sup> (see Annex II for the PHR Program Logic) These EOPOs encompass communicable disease prevention and control, NCD management, sexual and reproductive health rights, health system resilience, and effective partnerships.

- → Gavi and the Global Fund's core missions directly support EOPO1 through their extensive work in communicable disease prevention and control. Their investments in disease surveillance capabilities, laboratory networks, and emergency response systems strengthen regional health security infrastructure beyond their primary disease mandates.
- → In addressing EOPO2, Gavi's implementation of HPV vaccination programs and the Global Fund's support to cervical cancer screening and treatment throughout the region contributes significantly to NCD prevention<sup>109</sup>, by reducing cervical cancer rates.
- → Both organisations' comprehensive approach to health system strengthening aligns with EOPO4, as they invest in developing robust data systems, surveillance, regulatory mechanisms, and service delivery infrastructure. A notable example is Gavi's support for enhancing local manufacturing capacity and the Global Fund's support for local production and promoting technology transfer from pharmaceutical companies to sites in partner countries for health product manufacturing<sup>110</sup>.



their ability to respond rapidly and flexibly to emerging health challenges, as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts directly support EOPO5's focus on effective partnerships and delivery. This adaptability ensures that Australia's regional health assistance remains responsive to partner countries' evolving needs. Both multilateral health organisations remained agile and flexible in response to emerging health needs. For example, by pivoting activities in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. In 2024, in response to a surge of HIV cases in Fiji, the Global Fund country team met with the Ministry of Health, the Principal Recipient organisation UNDP and partners including DFAT, the World Health Organizations, UNAIDS and other donors, to better understand the context. This coordination effort in country led to the adequate mobilisation of technical assistance, the identification of opportunities to immediately reinvest grant savings (where feasible) and additional bilateral funding to support immediate health needs.

## 4.2 Country prioritisation

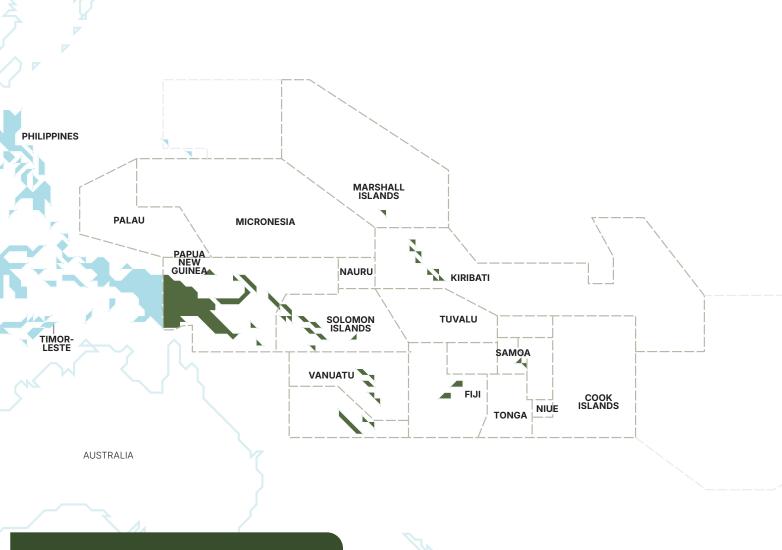
Gavi and the Global Fund demonstrate strong programmatic alignment with Australian priority countries across Asia and the Pacific, particularly in key nations such as Indonesia, PNG, and other Pacific Island countries.

#### South and **Central Asia**

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- **Bhutan**
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- **Pakistan**
- Sri Lanka

#### **Southeast** Asia

- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar
- The Philippines
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam



## **Pacific**

→ Federated States of Micronesia

JAPAN

- → Fiji
- → Kiribati
- → Nauru

- Niue
- → Papua New Guinea
- → Republic of the Marshall Islands

→ Republic of Palau

- → Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- → Tuvalu



Eligibility for the Global Fund support is primarily based on a country's income classification, determined by gross national income per capita and disease burden. All low- and lower middle-income countries are eligible, regardless of disease burden. Upper middle-income countries must meet specific disease burden thresholds to qualify, except for ODA-eligible small states, including small island economies, which are eligible regardless of disease burden. According to the Global Fund 2024 Eligible country list, in the Pacific, eligible countries include upper lower middle-income nations such as Kiribati (HIV and TB), Federated States of Micronesia (HIV and TB), and Vanuatu. Upper middle-income countries such as Fiji (HIV and TB), Republic of the Marshall Islands (HIV and TB), Tonga (HIV and TB), and Tuvalu (HIV and TB) which are classified as upper middle-income, are eligible under the IDA Small States Exemption. As per the Global Fund Eligibility Policy, a multicountry applicant is eligible for funding if the majority (at least 51 percent) of the countries included in the funding request are eligible for funding in their own right. Hence, small island states such as Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, and Palau that are ineligible - receive Global Fund funding as they are included in the multicountry Western Pacific grant along with eligible small island states Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu and Vanuatu<sup>111</sup>.

As for Gavi supported countries, until now, PNG, Indonesia and Timor Leste have been eligible for support. Gavi has shown increasing responsiveness to the unique challenges of the Pacific region by evolving its eligibility criteria. Traditionally based on GNI per capita and vaccine coverage rates, these criteria did not fully address the specific needs of smaller Pacific Island Countries. In response to advocacy efforts, Gavi has implemented special provisions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)<sup>112</sup>. Furthermore, the organisation approved an augmented middle-income countries (MICs) approach in June 2021, providing catalytic support for vaccine introduction in countries above their GNI income threshold but facing challenges

related to fragility, acute emergencies, or displaced populations. Countries that are eligible include former-Gavi eligible countries, never-eligible lower middle-income countries and additional IDA-eligible countries113. At its most recent Board meeting in December 2024 Gavi approved a special package of support for SIDS. This package seeks to help build resilience against the challenges SIDS grapple with including climate change and an increasing number of natural disasters that lead to a heightened risk of outbreaks and costly emergency response 114. Such adaptation ensures sustained support for Pacific nations that might otherwise become ineligible, demonstrating the impact of Australia's advocacy in shaping multilateral policies 115. Gavi's enhanced commitment to the Pacific is further evidenced by CEO Sania Nishtar's inaugural visit to Solomon Islands in November 2024<sup>116</sup>. The complementarity of global health organisation and bilateral aid funding is further exemplified by the case of PNG, where co-funding from DFAT, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Gavi support the Accelerated Immunisation and Health Systems Strengthening Program 117.

Both organisations maintain a strong focus on sustainability planning and transition support, aligning with Australia's development approach of building self-reliant health systems. This alignment is particularly evident in their coordinated approaches to transitioning countries such, ensuring the maintenance of regional health security as nations graduate from direct support. The convergence in country prioritisation maximises the impact of Australia's investments by leveraging multilateral resources in priority regions where Australia has deep diplomatic and development interests.

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## 4.3 Delivering on Cross-Cutting Development Priorities

Three key cross-cutting priorities of Australia's international development policy are reflected in the strategic objectives and work plans of both Gavi and the Global Fund.

#### a. Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems

Climate change represents a significant and growing threat to health security across the Indo-Pacific region. Rising temperatures exacerbate climate-sensitive illnesses, including vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and yellow fever, as well as water-borne diseases like cholera and typhoid<sup>118</sup>. Pacific Island Countries are particularly vulnerable to these impacts, with extreme weather events weakening already fragile health systems and displacing communities<sup>119</sup>. This vulnerability is further compounded by growing levels of conflict, population growth, and health services still recovering from COVID-19 disruptions, making the need for climate-resilient health systems more urgent than ever<sup>120</sup>.

The Global Fund has demonstrated strong commitment to addressing these challenges through specific climate initiatives. The organisation's investment in climate-resilient health systems reflects a forward-thinking adaptation to emerging threats and is particularly relevant for Pacific nations facing climate-related health challenges. In November 2023, the Global Fund has established new partnerships with the World Bank to accelerate investments in climate and health interventions<sup>121</sup>. The July 2024 board approval of a new climate change strategy further solidifies climate considerations as a core component of the organisation's operational framework. In January 2025, the Global Fund in partnership with the Gates Foundation and Sanofi, through its philanthropic organization Foundation S-has launched a US\$50 million Climate and Health Catalytic Fund that aims to help countries and vulnerable communities tackle the health impacts of climate change while building low-carbon, climate-resilient health systems 122.

Gavi complements these efforts through practical climate adaptation measures in its immunisation programs. The organisation maintains vaccine stockpiles to respond rapidly to disease outbreaks triggered by climate events<sup>123</sup>. To address challenges posed by rising temperatures, Gavi is elaborating innovative cold chain solarisation solutions to ensure reliable vaccine refrigeration. Furthermore, the organisation is thinking through new initiatives to better manage vaccine waste, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability that aligns with Australia's climate change priorities in development policy.

#### b. Advancing Gender Equality in Health

Both Gavi and the Global Fund demonstrate strong commitment to advancing gender equality through their programs, recognising that gender barriers significantly impact health outcomes across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Global Fund 's approach to gender equality is comprehensive and multi-faceted. The organisation actively works to reduce inequities in health services by addressing gender-related and human rights barriers while collaborating with partners, including civil society and affected communities, to build more inclusive health systems 124. This commitment is particularly evident in maternal health programs, where the organisation has achieved significant progress in preventing motherto-child HIV transmission. In Global Fund-supported countries, the percentage of mothers receiving HIV prevention treatment increased dramatically from 49% in 2010 to 84% in 2023125 126. Global Fund 's investments in education, health and economic programs in high-burden countries have also helped reduce the vulnerability of girls and young women to HIV. The organisation's genderresponsive programming is further exemplified in PNG, where women account for 56% of new HIV infections, with 45% occurring among adolescent girls and young women aged 15-29<sup>127</sup>. The Global

Fund also addresses gender-based violence in PNG by supporting robust community-led monitoring of stigma, discrimination and violence within the country.

The Global Fund's 2023-2028 Strategy demonstrates an enhanced focus on transforming social and cultural norms while addressing discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities 128. This builds upon the Breaking Down Barriers initiative, established in 2017, which represents more than USD200 million investment across 24 countries including Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand 129. In the Philippines, this initiative has been particularly effective in implementing legal literacy programs that educate key populations vii about their rights in terms of access to HIV services and provide legal literacy support for marginalised groups 130. 131.

Gavi complements these efforts through its gendersensitive approach to immunisation programs. The organisation recognises that immunisation can be a catalyst for transforming women's roles in society, particularly in communities where mothers are primary caregivers but face restricted mobility and decision-making power due to cultural norms<sup>132</sup>. To address these challenges, Gavi analyses data based on sex, income, and geographic location to identify and address barriers to immunisation coverage<sup>133</sup>.

The organisation's commitment to gender equality extends to empowering women healthcare workers. In Pakistan for example, Gavi supports initiatives that train female health workers to deliver immunisation services, simultaneously improving healthcare access and creating employment opportunities for women<sup>134</sup> <sup>135</sup>. This approach helps overcome cultural barriers that might prevent women from seeking medical assistance.

Gavi's provision of specific vaccines, such as the HPV and rubella vaccines, directly addresses women's health needs<sup>136</sup> <sup>137</sup>. These interventions protect against diseases that disproportionately affect women and girls, contributing to better health outcomes and enabling fuller participation in society.

Both organisations demonstrate their commitment to gender equality through systematic approaches, including the Global Fund's Gender Equality Marker for transparency in funding and impact measurement, and Gavi's data-driven strategies to identify and address gender-based barriers to immunisation. These efforts align with and support Australia's development objectives of promoting gender equality and social inclusion across the Indo-Pacific region.

## c. Strengthening Community-Led Health Solutions

The Global Fund and Gavi's commitment to community-led responses strongly aligns with Australia's localisation agenda in development assistance. Through their respective approaches to community engagement, both organisations demonstrate how multilateral programs can effectively support locally owned development while building sustainable health systems that improve health outcomes for all, including the most vulnerable populations.

The Global Fund has established a governance framework that harnesses community engagement both through its Board which includes three constituencies –communities affected by the three diseases, developing country NGOs, and developed country NGOs, and through the national committees called Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), ensuring communities

vii Key Populations: LGBTQ+ community, PLH, people who use and/or inject drugs, Prisoners and incarcerated populations, people living with HIV, migrants, refugees, miners and other people who work in poorly ventilated conditions, and indigenous populations are all groups that are highly vulnerable to TB. They can also experience significant marginalisation, reduced access to quality services and human rights violations

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are integral to decision-making processes in health programming<sup>138</sup>. This approach reflects the organisation's fundamental belief that strong, inclusive health systems are essential for addressing HIV, TB, and malaria while strengthening global health security<sup>139</sup>. Through community health workers, the Global Fund extends lifesaving services to populations marginalised by poverty, stigma, discrimination, and criminalisation.

Community empowerment is further embedded in the Global Fund 's operational structure through its funding support for community-led initiatives. The Global Fund's investments strengthen community systems to address local needs and reach the most marginalized and vulnerable people with equitable and quality services. These programs support community-led monitoring to improve services for marginalised and vulnerable people and address related health and human rights concerns. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this approach proved particularly effective through innovations like HIV self-testing and multi-month dispensing, which maintained service continuity while addressing privacy concerns and reducing stigma<sup>140</sup>. Gavi complements these community-centred approaches through its vaccination programs, particularly focusing on engaging local communities and respected community leaders to promote immunisation awareness among women and girls. This strategy has been effective in overcoming cultural barriers that traditionally impede women's access to healthcare services141 142.

Gavi's commitment to community representation extends to its governance structure, with Board membership that includes representatives from affected communities, as well as donor and implementer governments, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders. Under its Gavi 6.0 framework, the organisation has strengthened its governance structures and operational model to better incorporate recipient countries' voices and needs, demonstrating an enhanced commitment to community-driven approaches.

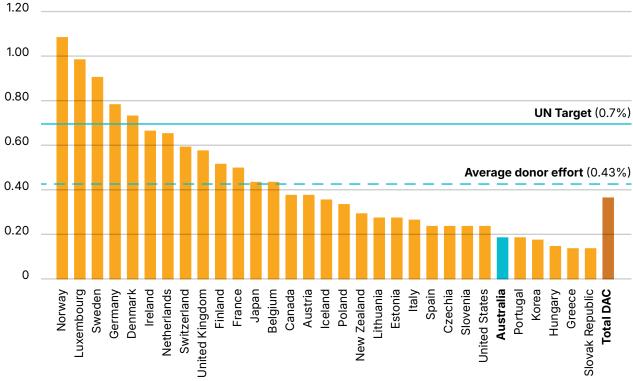


# Looking Ahead: Emerging Challenges and Key Recommendations

While multilateral partnerships have been instrumental in advancing health outcomes in the Indo-Pacific, the region now faces growing challenges that threaten to reverse much of the progress made. Climate change is amplifying environmental disruptions, driving disease outbreaks, disrupting health service delivery and straining already fragile health systems. Geopolitical instability and migration are increasing health risks, while economic uncertainty is making it harder to secure consistent funding for health programs<sup>143</sup> <sup>144</sup> <sup>145</sup> <sup>146</sup>.

Meanwhile, the multilateral aid landscape itself is under pressure. Major donor countries, including the United States of America and the United Kingdom, have reduced their ODA commitments. Domestic political shifts have created uncertainty for organisations that heavily rely on major donor funding. Even Australia's ODA volume has seen a significant decline since 2012, stabilising at around USD3 billion annually over the past seven years. As demonstrated in the Development Policy Centre graph below, Australia remains below the global threshold in terms of its ODA contribution. Australia ranks among the smallest contributors of core funding to multilateral development institutions among OECD donors.

Over the past decade, Australia's donor rankings for the two major global health funds have declined. As the 12th largest donor to the Global Fund, Australia is downgraded from its 10th position during the three prior cycles in the 2010s. Similarly, for Gavi, Australia dropped from 6th place in 2011–2015 to 9th, in 2016–2020 and 11th in the 2021–2025 replenishment periods<sup>147</sup>. In 2025 and beyond there will be a "traffic jam" of multilateral replenishments, with increasing competition for limited resources amid constrained budgets<sup>148</sup>. Nearly all major concessional funds, including Gavi and the Global Fund, aim to raise a record USD100 billion through their upcoming replenishments cycles<sup>149</sup>.



Source: Devpol, Australian Aid Tracker, available here.

2024 and 2025 rounds of elections in major donor countries have led to significant shifts in priorities, with further potential retrenchments in aid flows, particularly in health and gender equality sectors. This uncertainty could place additional pressure on countries like Australia to step up their commitments to multilateral health funding, ensuring that existing commitments are not eroded<sup>150</sup>. Furthermore, there has been a proliferation of new funds aimed at addressing a range of global challenges such as climate change adaptation, pandemic preparedness, and poverty alleviation. This has complicated donor's funding prioritisation decisions leading to duplication, fragmentation, and funding gaps.

To navigate these complexities and sustain progress, Australia and its multilateral partners must prioritise focused and collaborative action. The following recommendations present actionable strategies for moving forward.

#### (I) Increase overall ODA

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One of the most critical recommendations for Australia is to increase its ODA target to 1% of government spending. As one of the leading contributors to multilateral health initiatives in the region, Australia's role in regional health security is paramount. This increase in ODA is not simply a matter of fulfilling a financial commitment; it is a global responsibility, a health security priority and an investment in the future of health, stability, and prosperity for Australia and its neighbours. Health security is inextricably linked to economic growth, regional stability, and international trade. A healthier Asia-Pacific translates into stronger trade relationships, reduced migration pressures, and lasting peace and prosperity for the region. By revisiting the ODA target, Australia can ensure its continued leadership in promoting global health and development, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, where health systems often face significant resource constraints.

# (II) Sustain long term predicable financial contribution to Gavi and the Global Fund

For sustainability and long-term planning of multilateral partnerships, it is important for all current donors including Australia to sustain long-term, predictable funding for multilateral organisations. Australia should continue to increase its funding support for Gavi and the Global Fund and continue to support innovative financing mechanisms like IFFIm and Debt2Health.

#### (III) Encourage multilateral collaboration

Multilateral partners such as Gavi and the Global Fund need to continue improving coordination and collaboration amongst themselves to maximise the impact of their work and address emerging challenges. Donors have a role to play in catalysing these collaborative efforts. Some collaborations are already in progress, but there is significant potential to do more within the Indo-Pacific context.

At the global level on matters relating to funding, Gavi and the Global Fund engage in consultation and coordination, sharing data to assess regional needs and priorities. This collaboration ensures alignment in funding strategies and program implementation<sup>151</sup>. While the available malaria vaccine does not currently apply to the Indo-Pacific region<sup>viii</sup>, Gavi and the Global Fund collaborate to roll out malaria interventions in a coordinated manner, with donors represented through International Coordinating Committees (ICCs) to ensure alignment across both vaccination and broader malaria prevention, detection and treatment programs<sup>152</sup>.

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Malaria elimination efforts in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) focus on reinforcing the use of existing tools and strategies while the newly approved malaria vaccines have limited relevance for the GMS due to its relatively low disease burden, and the fact that cases are primarily seen among adult forest workers rather than children (the vaccine's target population).

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More recently, through the Lusaka Agendaix, Gavi and the Global Fund have developed a long-term plan for in-country coordination, focusing on collaboration between their Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) teams<sup>153</sup>. The four key workstreams to enhance collaboration moving forward include strengthening resilient and sustainable health systems, improving collaboration in challenging operating environments, and achieving administrative and operational synergies<sup>154</sup>.

#### (IV) Maintain Australia's Leadership in Global Health Governance

Australia continues to champion Indo-Pacific health priorities within multilateral health partnerships through strategic governance participation. Some of these efforts as referenced earlier in this report have seen Gavi implement special provisions for SIDS and MICs ensuring avenues to access Gavi support for countries who otherwise would have been ineligible. By maintaining Australia's representation where possible on the governing boards such as the Global Fund, Gavi and the WHO, and continuing to engage collaboratively with peak bodies such as the Australian Global Health Alliance, Australia continues to ensure regional health concerns remain visible on the global health agenda.

The Lusaka Agenda, launched on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day in December 2023, was the outcome of the Future of Global Health Initiatives (FGHI) process, which brought together stakeholders from governments, global health organisations, and civil society. It focused on maximising the health impact of country-led global health initiatives (GHIs) like Gavi, the Global Fund and the Global Financing Facility (GFF) to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage. The agenda identified five key shifts for the evolution of these GHIs and outlined priorities to catalyse action in the broader health ecosystem.



Australia's investments in multilateral health organisations like Gavi and the Global Fund have proven to be highly effective vehicles for advancing health security and development outcomes in the Indo-Pacific region. These partnerships have delivered exceptional returns on investment, while saving millions of lives and vaccinating hundreds of millions of children. Through their unique advantages in market shaping, innovative financing, and economies of scale, these organisations have dramatically improved access to essential health products and services across the region.

The challenges facing multilateral health partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region are significant and complex. With Australia's ODA contributions falling below international targets and its donor rankings declining for both Gavi and the Global Fund, there is an urgent need for renewed commitment to multilateral health funding. The upcoming replenishments, coupled with global economic uncertainties and emerging health threats, makes this a critical moment for action.

Australia has an opportunity to strengthen its leadership role in regional health security by increasing its overall ODA, maintaining predictable long-term support for key multilateral partners, and fostering greater collaboration between global health initiatives. These investments are not merely financial commitments but strategic imperatives that will help secure the health, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region for decades to come.

# Annex I - Method and Analytical Approach

This report employs a comprehensive three-phase method to evaluate the impact and strategic value of Australia's investments in the Global Fund and Gavi, with particular emphasis on alignment with Australia's development objectives in the Indo-Pacific region.

## **Phase One: Document Analysis**

The first phase comprised an extensive review of primary source documentation from key stakeholders. This included analysis of annual reports, strategic frameworks, and performance evaluations from both the Global Fund and Gavi. Additional materials examined included

replenishment documentation, press releases, policy briefs, and official communications from DFAT, the Global Fund, and Gavi. This systematic review established a robust evidence base for understanding programmatic outcomes, priorities, and investment impact.

## **Phase Two: Expert Consultations**

The second phase involved structured interviews with nine global health experts, selected for their deep understanding of multilateral health investments and Australia's development assistance programs.

1	Aurelia	Nguyen	Deputy CEO of CEPI, Ex-Gavi Chief Programme Officer
2	Christoph	Benn	Director for Global Health Diplomacy at the Joep Lange Institute, ex- Director External Relations Director External Relations at Global Fund
3	Deena	Shiff	Gavi Board Member
4	Makiko	Takayama	Donor Relations Specialist at Global Fund
5	Jim	Tulloch	Consultant in Health and Development
6	Rob	Condon (Dr)	Public Health Physician
7	Robin	Davies	Honorary Professor, Development Policy Centre, ANU
8	Veronica	Montes	Donor Relations Associate Specialist at Global Fund
9	Yoshinobu	Nagamine	Senior Manager for Resource Mobilization, Private Sector Partnerships & Innovative Finance Gavi

These experts provided valuable insights into the operational effectiveness of both organisations, their alignment with Australia's regional priorities, and their contribution to health outcomes in the

Indo-Pacific region. The consultations offered critical perspectives on the value of Australia's multilateral partnerships and their complementarity with bilateral programs.

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## **Phase Three: Evaluation Framework Development**

The final phase focused on developing a comprehensive evaluation framework aligned with the objectives and performance metrics of Australia's Partnerships for a Healthy Region program. This framework enabled systematic assessment of how investments in the Global Fund and Gavi contribute to Australia's development goals while ensuring consistent evaluation criteria across different programmatic areas and geographic regions.

This methodological approach ensures that the findings and recommendations presented in this report are grounded in evidence, informed by expert insight, and aligned with Australia's development objectives in the Indo-Pacific region.

### Limitations

While this method provides a robust foundation for analysis, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations. The availability and consistency of regional and country-level impact data vary across the region, and the attribution of specific outcomes to multilateral investments can be complex given the multiple factors influencing health outcomes. Additionally, the recent nature of some initiatives means that long-term impact data is not yet available.

# Annex II -Partnerships

for a Healthy Strategic objective Region

Goal >

Pacific and Southeast Asian countries deliver better health outcomes for all

Australia is a trusted health partner in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, with stronger institutional linkages and high value placed on our public health expertise

Development objective

Pacific and Southeast Asian countries have more resilient and equitable public health systems with greater capability to respond to health emergencies

Program Logic

**EOPO1:** Australian assistance contributes to improved ability of partner countries to anticipate, prevent, detect and control communicable disease threats and to address equity in the delivery of these functions

Development -

10 1.1:

Strengthened capacity and systems to respond to epidemic and endemic communicable disease threats 10 1.2:

Strengthened pandemic preparedness and outbreak response systems and capacity

10 1.3: Increased development, trialling, registration of and access to new or modified medical products

**EOPO4:** Australian assistance contributes to partner countries' improved regulatory mechanisms, data systems, and capabilities to deliver equitable public health action

10 4.1: Improved regulatory systems increase the availability of high-quality, safe, effective and essential medicines and products

Strategic outcome

EOPO5: Australia's regional health assistance is flexible, responsive and meets the needs of partner countries

10 5.1: Partnerships across government agencies and Australian institutions support the provision of Australian health expertise into the region

Cross cutting outcomes

10 CC1: Greater adoption of One Health approaches and integration of climate change considerations

**EOPO2:** Australian assistance contributes to improved capacity of partner countries to prevent and control noncommunicable disease in an equitable way

IO 2.1: Effective health promotion, policy and regulatory reform focused on NCD risk factors resulting in changes in behaviour IO 2.2: Strengthened screening, early detection and management of NCDs 10 2.3: Effective models of care are supported which promote physical and psychosocial wellbeing **EOPO3:** Australian assistance contributes to increased capacity of partner countries to advance equitable and comprehensive SHR, particularly for women and girls

10 3.1: Improved systems and capabilities to deliver comprehensive, rights based SRH services and quality information and education

10 3.2: Australia and partners advocate for and support strengthened legislative and policy environments that advance universal, equitable SHR

IO 3.3: Improved quality, range and availability of SRH

**104.2:** Strengthened data systems, with quality data increasingly informing evidence-based decision making to enhance health policy and programming

**10 4.3:** Workforce skills enhanced across key areas, addressing partner government priority needs

**10 4.4:** High quality advice made available to meet partner needs, including by deployees

**10 5.2:** Coordinated action and policy dialogue across global, regional and Australian partners and with posts

10: 5.3 Efficient program delivery

**10 CC2:** Stronger GEDSI integration and outcomes across PHR investments

**10 CC3:** Increased community engagement across PHR investments

# Annex III -Health Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Post-Pandemic

#### **HIV Epidemic:**

- → The ongoing HIV epidemic in countries like Fiji, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and the Philippines remains a significant concern<sup>155</sup>.
- → From 2010 to 2022, new HIV infections increased by 32% among gay men and 85% among nonclient sex partners of key populations<sup>156</sup>.

#### TB and Drug-Resistant TB:

- Among the high-burden countries that account for the majority of global TB cases each year, five are from the Indo-Pacific region—India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- → PNG is among the 30 countries with the highest burden of TB and MDR/RR-TB<sup>157</sup>.
- → Despite progress in HIV-associated TB, the fight against MDR/RR-TB continues to face challenges, especially in environments with poor treatment outcomes and high rates of loss to follow-up<sup>158</sup>.

#### Malaria Resurgence:

- → Malaria cases, which had significantly reduced between 2000 and 2021 in the Western Pacific region, spiked by 30% in 2022<sup>159</sup>.
- An increase in malaria cases has also been reported in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu from 2020 to 2022<sup>160</sup>.

#### **Declining Vaccine Coverage:**

- → General vaccine coverage has declined, with diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP-3) coverage dropping from 94% to 87% in East Asia and the Pacific between 2019 and 2023<sup>161</sup>.
- → In PNG, DTP coverage has fallen below 40% since the pandemic<sup>162</sup>.

#### **Risk of Measles Outbreak:**

- → 3.6 million children in the Western Pacific missed routine immunisations between 2020-2022<sup>163</sup>.
- → Measles cases in the Western Pacific surged by 255% from 2022 to 2023<sup>164</sup>...
- Declining vaccination rates, ongoing outbreaks, and endemic transmission in key countries heighten the risk of a measles resurgence in 2024-2025<sup>165</sup>.

## **Annex IV - Case Studies**

Case studies highlighting how multilateral aid complements Australia's bilateral efforts in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **Enhancing Health Outcomes in PNG**<sup>®</sup>

PNG faces immense challenges in achieving adequate vaccine coverage, ranking among the lowest among Gavisupported countries. The COVID-19 pandemic, recurring social unrest, inadequate funding, and shortages of health workers have severely weakened health systems. Immunisation efforts have been impacted by the pandemic, leading to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio in 2018, measles in 2023, and pertussis in 2022 and 2023. Gavi's ongoing efforts since 2021 have already enabled approximately 400,000 children to access life-saving vaccines for the first time, marking a significant milestone in improving childhood immunisation coverage and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases in the country<sup>167</sup>.

To avoid setbacks on immunisation coverage, as a result of future pandemics, Gavi, in partnership with the governments of PNG, Australia, and New Zealand, launched the Accelerated Immunisation and Health Systems Strengthening Program Phase 2 (AIHSS2 from 2024-2027)<sup>168</sup>. This initiative aims to immunise 120,000 zero-dose and under-immunised children, aligning with the national immunisation strategy's goal of achieving 75% coverage<sup>169</sup>. This collaboration represents a critical step toward improving immunisation coverage and fortifying health systems in PNG, addressing the root causes of low vaccine uptake and preventing future disease outbreaks.

PNG also faces one of the highest TB prevalence rates globally and is listed among the 30 high-burden countries for TB and multidrug-resistant TB. However, through sustained multilateral support, the country has made notable progress with treatment coverage for TB reaching 80% in 2022, and treatment success rates of 73% for TB and 72% for MDR-TB<sup>170</sup>. Additionally, the HIV epidemic is a growing concern in PNG. While HIV prevalence remains higher in key populations, it is becoming more widespread among the general population, including among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls and young women and their partners. The Global Fund is the largest external donor investing in prevention services for key populations in PNG, and significant progress has been made in increasing the number of people enrolled on HIV treatment. Additionally, malaria is endemic throughout the country except for highland areas above 1,600 meters. PNG accounts for 90% of the malaria burden and 94% of all malaria-related deaths in the Western Pacific region<sup>171</sup>. The Global Fund is the sole external funder supporting malaria case management (rapid diagnostic tools and treatment) and the main funder of long-lasting insecticidal nets in PNG.

Australia's bilateral assistance has also played a pivotal role in strengthening PNG's health system<sup>178</sup> including its HIV strategy. Through the development of a draft National Sexually Transmitted Infection and HIV Strategy and supporting population health surveys, Australia has helped improve the efficiency, targeting, and funding of PNG's HIV response. These efforts have been complemented by collaborative work with the Global Fund to secure additional funding for critical health services, including through domestic sources<sup>179</sup>. The Global Fund has demonstrated its commitment by increasing funding allocation to PNG by 81% during the Sixth Replenishment period, enhancing support for HIV and TB programs. This is particularly crucial when it comes to addressing gender inequities in PNG, since women in PNG account for 56% of new HIV infections in the country, with 45% occurring among adolescent girls and young women aged 15-29.

The alignment of Australia's bilateral funding with the Global Fund's multilateral programs ensure a unified approach to tackling PNG's health challenges. By improving coordination through CCMs and mobilising resources for high-impact interventions, this partnership strengthens PNG's health system and contributes to the long-term stability and prosperity of the nation.



Image: The Global Fund/Roan Paul

# Timor-Leste: Transforming Health Outcomes and eliminating cervical cancer<sup>172</sup>

Timor-Leste demonstrates the transformative impact of multilateral health partnerships in small island nations. Timor-Leste is moving quickly towards malaria elimination by 2025, having dramatically reduced malaria cases from 223,002 in 2006 to 0 (zero) indigenous case in 2021 and reporting zero malaria deaths since 2015. The country recently achieved a notable milestone in disease control, submitting an official request for WHO certification of malaria-free status in 2023, highlighting the success of the Global Fund -supported malaria elimination efforts. The Global Fund continues to support Timor-Leste's efforts, particularly to strengthen cross-border collaboration with Indonesia where significant risk of resurgence is located.

When it comes to immunisation. Gavi's initiatives have significantly enhanced public health outcomes and reduced childhood mortality rates from vaccine-preventable diseases in Timor Leste. The vision in Timor Leste is to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035 with the roll out of HPV vaccination. With support from Gavi, Timor-

Leste launched its HPV vaccine program in July 2024, aimed at preventing cervical cancer among women and girls. 30,000 doses were made available through Gavi support, and an additional 38,370 doses were sourced with support from the Australian Government for the catch-up campaign. Australia's bilateral funding for HPV vaccines in the country complements Gavi's role in providing vaccine support.

This integrated effort contributes to the broader goal of achieving an HPV-free status in Timor-Leste, showing how Australia's focus on specific health outcomes can be strengthened by the expertise and infrastructure of multilateral organisations like Gavi<sup>173</sup>. Gavi plays a role in harnessing and amplifying the innovations and expertise of Australia's top researchers and universities, such as the co-invention of the HPV vaccine by immunologist lan Frazer of the University of Queensland. This coordination reflects the power of multilateral partnerships in driving regional health security goals.

### **Indonesia:** Catalysing Sustainable Health Solutions

Indonesia represents a significant success story in multilateral health cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Through Gavi's support, approximately 4 million children now have access to pneumococcal vaccines at a quarter of the commercial cost, significantly improving protection against one of the leading causes of child mortality. The country has also emerged as a regional leader in vaccine production through Bio Farma, transitioning from a local player to an international manufacturer, enhancing regional health security and reducing dependency on distant supply chains.

With an estimated TB incidence of over 1 million, Indonesia is the largest implementer of the Global Fund grants in southeast Asia. The Global Fund has disbursed about \$1.6 billion for Indonesia since 2002 with nearly half of the funding supporting Indonesia's fight against TB. The Global Fund 's involvement has been equally impactful, particularly in TB control. Through an innovative debt

conversion agreement with Australia, Indonesia was able to invest AUD37.5 million into its national TB program. The Global Fund also executed an innovative buydown funding with the World Bank that is linked to improved detection of TB cases, better treatment coverage, and reforms in provider payments to incentivising primary care. This partnership has been particularly significant as Indonesia is ranked the second highest TB burden country in the world.

The country's progress demonstrates how multilateral support can catalyse both immediate health improvements and long-term capacity building, creating sustainable health systems that benefit the entire region.

# **Greater Mekong Subregion: Catalysing Cooperation Success**

The GMS exemplifies successful regional cooperation in disease elimination through multilateral partnerships. The Global Fund launched the Regional Artemisinin-resistance Initiative's (RAI) in 2014 and has operationalized over US\$700 million for this region's malaria control efforts to date. RAI is the Global Fund's largest regional initiative that supports malaria elimination and containment of the threat of regional artemisinin-resistance in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.<sup>28</sup>

The five GMS countries have achieved remarkable progress, reducing malaria cases and deaths by over 90% since 2000, positioning the region to potentially achieve its malaria elimination goal by 2030. These efforts complement bilateral investments from Australia including investments in support of the Indo-Pacific Regulatory Systems Strengthening Program designed to improve the capacity and capability of regulatory agencies in the GMS, as well as in Indonesia and PNG, to register and monitor the quality of essential medicines including medicines to treat malaria.

The Global Fund's community health worker program has been particularly impactful in the GMS, supporting over 9,800 workers in Vietnam alone. These workers serve as crucial bridges between remote communities and health facilities, providing essential services to hard-to-reach populations. In mountainous and rural areas of Vietnam, where forest workers face high malaria exposure, community health workers deliver vital education on disease prevention, conduct testing, and facilitate treatment access. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these community health workers expanded their roles to include COVID-19 prevention education, distribution of protective equipment, and provision of essential supplies to families in need. Their established trust within communities has proven invaluable for early disease outbreak recognition and response, strengthening the region's overall health security infrastructure and demonstrating the effectiveness of multilateral support in building sustainable health systems.

These success stories underscore how multilateral organisations help catalyse Australian innovation and how the complementarity of bilateral aid and multilateral partnerships can effectively support more fragile and disease-ridden nations in building more robust health systems and achieving significant public health milestones. This complementarity in turn, contributes to regional health security and development goals. These success stories underscore how multilateral organisations help catalyse Australian innovation and how the complementarity of bilateral aid and multilateral partnerships can effectively support more fragile and disease-ridden nations in building more robust health systems and achieving significant public health milestones. This complementarity in turn, contributes to regional health security and development goals.



Image: WHO/Enric Catala

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