

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Tuberculosis

FY21 Request
\$400 million for
Tuberculosis in Global
Health Account

Since 2015, tuberculosis (TB) has been *the leading global infectious disease killer*, surpassing HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. While often thought of as a disease of the past, the World Health Organization now reports that TB sickens 10 million people and kills 1.5 million people each year.

This airborne disease disproportionately affects people in poor and vulnerable communities. With U.S. leadership, progress has been made to fight TB where it occurs most often. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) states that in the 23 countries

with bilateral U.S. funding the rate of new cases has fallen by 27 percent, TB mortality has decreased by 44 percent, and TB case notifications (reporting of cases to health authorities) have increased by 114 percent since 2000.

Exciting innovations can now dramatically shorten TB treatment, reduce side-effects and save more lives, provided they reach patients in time. Yet, current USAID TB funding represents just 3 percent of the \$9.1 billion provided to USAID and State Department global health programs. The U.S. cannot reach the next stage of its plan to find and treat people with all forms of TB and reach TB prevention goals, without increasing funding above current levels.

The fight against TB is gathering momentum. In 2018, heads of state gathered at a high-level UN meeting and made specific, public commitments to end TB. Countries are also stepping up their own domestic resources. **USAID has launched a new initiative to channel resources directly to local organizations fighting TB.** Congressional action is needed to ensure the necessary funding levels to drive back this leading disease killer.

Why Funding Matters

U.S. investments in TB are saving lives and building capacity. USAID TB funding:

- **Saves lives:** With additional funding, USAID can maintain momentum to expand treatment for all forms of TB, including for multidrug resistant (MDR) TB, while expanding support for TB prevention as well as crucial TB research.
- **Implements patient and community-centered approaches:** Every year 3 million people are “missed” by health systems after failing to be diagnosed, treated, or reported. USAID supports patient-centered approaches to make it easier for patients to get proper treatment. Additional resources can support efforts to find the “missing millions.”
- **Supports the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria:** USAID supports countries to develop strong applications to the Global Fund and better manage their grants. It also provides key support to the **Stop TB Partnership** to build a strong global movement to end the disease.
- **Contributes to TB elimination in the U.S.:** The U.S. reports TB cases every year in every state. The CDC reports over 1,000 cases of MDR-TB occurred in the U.S. from 2006 to 2016, severely straining state public health budgets. We cannot end TB in the U.S. until we stop it globally.

Mutui's Story

Every day over 400 Nigerians die of TB. For Mutiu Ayinla, who survived multidrug-resistant TB, music is more than just a form of art, it's a form of treatment. **"Music really lifted me up and made me feel better when I needed it most,"** he says. The singer, from Lagos, Nigeria, is in a Fuji band, music with a huge following across the country.

When Mutiu first started feeling ill and coughing a lot he didn't think much of it. "However, my condition continued to worsen... My voice started cracking and I was forced to stop singing, that's when I went to the local health center where I was diagnosed with TB." **There is a lot of stigma around TB, and those sick with the disease are often shunned by family and friends.** "My wife divorced me, took the children and sold our house. She thought I was going to die. She took all our savings and left me with nothing."

"The thought of stopping my treatment and dying crossed my mind. The medication made me feel very sick in the beginning, **thankfully the health workers got me through.**" One of the positive things to come out of his treatment was the recovery of his voice. "Being able to sing again and rejoin the band during my treatment was fantastic! It only motivated me more to complete my treatment and get cured of this terrible disease."

Today, Mutui is cured and is back to doing what he loves, making music and performing for others. "I'm grateful for all the help I received during this difficult period in my life. Overcoming TB is not something you can do on your own, I appreciate all the help Challenge TB has provided me," he says. (Challenge TB is a recipient of funding from USAID).

Full story, including song by Mutui: <https://medium.com/@ChallengeTB/tackling-tb-with-music-252ad544c7eb>



MDR-TB Survivor Mutui Ayinla.
Photo: Tristan Bayly

Nigeria has the biggest TB epidemic in Africa, but U.S. support is making a difference

USAID assistance to Nigeria has resulted in a major increase in TB screening, including screening thousands of children just last year. It has also provided social and economic support for MDR-TB patients. USAID also helps other TB dollars be more effective. The US-backed training of health workers will help ensure maximum impact from a new TB grant for Nigeria from the Global Fund.

RESULTS' Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual personal appropriations requests forms, they should protect critical funding for antipoverty programs in the International Affairs account. RESULTS asks Members to also specifically show their support for ending the TB epidemic by requesting funding in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for the TB program within USAID Global Health. To do so, please submit a formal appropriations request form for the USAID TB account to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Lowey and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS' staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org

Fiscal Year	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	RESULTS' FY21 Request
USAID Tuberculosis	\$241 million	\$261 million	\$301 million	\$310 million	\$400 million