



Photo: Global Health Center

# GLOBAL HEALTH AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

The [United Nations Foundation](#) (UN Foundation) is an independent charitable organization established nearly 30 years ago to work closely with the UN to address humanity's greatest challenges and drive global progress. Health holds a key place among UN priorities, underpinning sustainable development and serving as a key pillar of international cooperation. Whether advancing disease elimination and universal health coverage or preparing for pandemics and addressing antimicrobial resistance, global cooperation is essential.

In this context, the UN Foundation's Global Health Team **works to mobilize political and financial support for global health priorities, strengthen coordination across the global health system, and advance forward-looking solutions.** Our work is grounded in long-standing relationships across the multilateral health community and our position as an independent partner to the UN.

## MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

Long-standing disease elimination and immunization initiatives have built crucial health infrastructure across the globe. Programs that advance polio eradication, routine immunization, and malaria

elimination not only save lives but also support disease surveillance, laboratory networks, health workforce capability, and cross-border coordination. This integrated approach makes health systems stronger and supports better health for people everywhere.

We help preserve and fortify these efforts by mobilizing political commitment, aligning financing and advocacy strategies, and supporting the governance structures that sustain multilateral cooperation. For example, through our role coordinating the secretariat for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Resource Mobilization Group, **we support donor engagement and partner efforts that generate nearly \$900 million in resources for polio eradication annually,** including through innovative financing.

The malaria portfolio illustrates our impact at both regional and global levels. In the Americas, we work with the Pan American Health Organization and Ministries of Health to keep up the momentum towards malaria elimination and advance country-led progress. Globally, we leverage our roles within organizations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to **align strategy across partners, share policy intelligence, and position malaria investment as a driver of integrated**

**and resilient health systems.** We also convene government, academic, and development partners from low- and middle-income countries to share lessons on managing climate-sensitive diseases, helping inform locally led adaptation strategies.

## GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND ACTIONABLE POLICY

Promoting good health for all depends on both scientific knowledge and informed political decision-making. We operate at the intersection of scientific communities and diplomatic processes, translating evidence and on the ground realities into conversations that shape global commitments.

**Through thematic dialogues co-hosted with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Member States at the UN in New York, we bring together technical experts, program implementers, advocates, and diplomats for discussions ahead of health-related High-Level Meetings.** These convenings provide space for deeper subject-matter understanding that formal negotiation settings often cannot accommodate.

We also help civil society networks, philanthropic actors, and private sector partners align around policy priorities. The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Communications Coalition, funded by Wellcome Trust, exemplified this approach. **Ahead of the 2024 High-Level Meeting on AMR, we convened diverse stakeholders to develop a shared messaging framework that helps communicate the complexities of AMR and promotes coherent policy and decisive action.**

Global health governance is evolving, with ongoing discussions about institutional reform and system alignment. We track these developments closely and share insights with partners to help them navigate change and adjust strategies in a shifting policy landscape.

## INNOVATION AND CATALYTIC FINANCING

We help incubate and launch forward-looking initiatives that strengthen the scientific and institutional foundations of global health cooperation.

In partnership with the National Academy of Medicine, **we are advancing the Pandemic Risk Assessment initiative by bringing together expertise across disciplines to help define a global scientific agenda for understanding and assessing pandemic risk.** The initiative aims to create a platform that will support the synthesis of scientific evidence to identify how pandemic risk is evolving over time and inform decision-making.

Advancing new ideas in global health also requires financing mechanisms that can translate commitments into action. The UN Foundation serves as an intermediary funder for global health initiatives, offering a pathway for contributions to WHO from a range of donors. Building on this capacity, we design and manage financing platforms that can respond rapidly to emerging needs.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO, the UN Foundation, the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, and a host of other partners created the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, raising more than \$200 million in its first six weeks from over 500,000 individuals and 150 companies worldwide. Today, **we host the International Pathogen Surveillance Network Catalytic Grant Fund, which supports collaboration and capacity-building in genomic surveillance.** These mechanisms complement formal multilateral funding channels and provide agile, accountable pathways for action when speed and flexibility are critical.



## PARTNER WITH US

The impact of our work has always been shaped by dialogue and collaboration with partners across the global health community who share a commitment to addressing complex health challenges. We remain open to new ideas, exchanges, and opportunities that can strengthen this effort. Contact us at [AskGlobalHealth@unfoundation.org](mailto:AskGlobalHealth@unfoundation.org).