KUWAIT FUND PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORTING DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMS
Introduction

Global Health Security is frequently threatened by many factors that stimulate the emergence and spread of diseases. Recent studies and statistics indicate that more than 500 million people around the world suffer from one or more diseases, especially in the tropical regions. More than 2 billion people, 25% of whom are under five-year-old children, live in areas exposed to many preventable and treatable diseases. According to some estimates, there are still about 2.5 billion people who lack basic sanitation facilities, while more than 650 million individuals drink from unclean surface water sources, which contribute to the exacerbation of diseases and health problems.

International Cooperation

Great achievements have been made in treating, preventing, reducing, controlling and eliminating many diseases, and millions of people have been saved. Thanks to effective international partnerships, where generous financial contributions, provision of medicines, political support, and the efforts of voluntary organizations, paving the way for achieving the goals of sustainable development.
This partnership is a blend of politics represented by governments, civil societies, research, private sector, financial and development institutions.

**Kuwait Fund Participation**

We can shed some light on disease control programs that the Fund participated in financing, during its development efforts in partnership with others:

**Onchocerciasis (river blindness) Control Program in Africa (1974-2015)**

The operations of the program, under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO), began in 1974 and was completed at the end of 2015 in various stages with great success, covering 31 countries. A cure for the disease was achieved through vaccinations and the development of special medicines. Among the most important results of the program is that hundreds of millions of people were protected from contracting the disease, and that it can now be controlled and the necessary treatments are provided even when it appears again.

**Guinea Worm Eradication Program (1997-2020)**

The global Guinea worm program which started in 1986 by the Carter Center, has achieved a remarkable decline in the incidence of the disease, aiming at its eradication from the planet, mainly in
Africa. The disease has been virtually eliminated as a major public health problem and an impediment to socio-economic development. Thanks to the coalition of many donors, financial agencies, institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

*Foundation for Tropical Diseases (1994)*

It is an establishment of an independent foundation, as an endowment Fund, to support WHO’s efforts to control major tropical diseases, and collaborates closely with the division of control of tropical diseases program for research and training.

*Roll-back Malaria Partnership (2013)*

It is a partnership to combat malaria disease at global level. Malaria is the leading health problem in many countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where most of the population live in highly endemic areas. This partnership led to a general improvement in the conditions of many people, due to applying preventative measures such as early detection, indoor spraying and using insecticide-treated bed nets. In addition to providing technical support, training and awareness campaigns.
Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN, 2016-2020)

The program was established in 2015 under the management of the African Regional Office of WHO. Kuwait Fund is one of the co-founders and early financiers of the program. It includes 5 diseases (Lymphatic Filariasis, Onchocerciasis, Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis, Schistosomiasis, Trachoma). The program covers 47 African Countries suffering from one or more of these diseases. It is estimated that between 300-400 million people benefit from the program annually, where the majority live in poor areas.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (2016-2023)

The Global Fund’s partners have established targets to reach the goals of ending HIV, TB and Malaria as epidemics, by 2030. The program is helping to save millions of lives, cut the mortality rates for the three diseases, and build stronger health systems to achieve “Health and well-being for all”. The Fund was established in 2000, it is an international partnership between public and private sectors to support more than 100 countries
**Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

The vaccine alliance is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries, established in 2000. Currently there are more than 70 countries benefiting from the activities of this alliance, and more than 700 million children have been treated since its establishment.

**Fighting Cholera in Yemen**

The Fund contributed within the operations of responding to humanitarian needs with a grant for Yemen in the fight against Cholera, under the supervision of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for the years 2017-2019. This to support the situation in Yemen and protect the population, especially children, from the seriousness of the deadly disease.

**Measles Campaign in Lebanon (2019-2021)**

The Fund participated in financing a campaign to the support of (UNICEF) through a grant for providing vaccination for Lebanese and Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. The grant was used to launch national campaigns to combat Measles and Polio, targeting more than 950 thousand children between 6 months and 10 years old, in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. The grant increased the vaccination and accelerated immunization activities.
Regional Program for Combating Transboundary Animal Diseases (2017-2024)

The program aims at combating and controlling animal diseases cross-border, through coordination and cooperation between Arab and some African Countries, by improving efficiencies of early detection, prompt diagnosis, evaluation of treatment vaccines, support epidemiological investigations and design precautionary preventative measures. This for the purpose of protecting general health of livestocks and, hence, human population. The program is under the supervision of Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in cooperation with concerned governments and international organizations related to animal health.

Spare Corona Virus Impact (2020)

The Fund contributed to support the efforts of the Kuwaiti health authorities in combating the outbreak of the corona virus, to enhance the capabilities of the state of kuwait to confront the pandemic, through a generous grant provided to the special account of the “contribution fund” against the spreading of the virus. Also, the Fund allocated funds to some countries namely Lebanon, Palestine, Uzbekistan, The African Union Organization and the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent to fight against the pandemic.
The success of above mentioned programs is mainly due to:

- Recognition of the diseases by population and governments concerned, as major impediment to health and socio-economic development.

- The political commitments of donors and governments to operations lasting the time necessary to reach the objectives.

- The effectiveness and applicability of the technical and scientific approaches to fight and control diseases, with the positive roles of private sector

- The devotion of competent staff of management, with emphasis on decentralization and flexibility and transparency.