

World Health Organization's "Investing to defeat meningitis and beyond" Analysis for civil society

In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched their [Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030](#). In April 2024, at their first high-level meeting on meningitis, the WHO published their investment case to defeat meningitis. This is a critical tool to ensure that the Road Map is fully funded so that its goals can be met. Read more about the launch and the high-level meeting [here](#).

Page numbers are used throughout this document to highlight where you can find out more information on specific issues within the WHO's investment case, titled "[Investing to defeat meningitis and beyond](#)".



What is the investment case and why is it so important?

The investment case is an important tool for advocacy around the Road Map. This is the first time we have had a clear financial ask for what is needed to defeat meningitis by 2030. The investment case sets out the funding requirements, as assessed by the WHO, for each of the Road Map's five pillars (outlined below). It breaks down how money will be used to maximise the potential impact of every dollar invested.

It also contains powerful evidence to support wider arguments for investing in defeating meningitis, including:

- People's personal experiences of meningitis (p.1);
- The links between meningitis and other key issues including climate change (p.12), gender equity (p.9), anti-microbial resistance (p.30) and health system resilience (p.8).
- The economic cost of meningitis to countries and families (p.31).



Why do we need to invest in meningitis?

Progress towards defeating meningitis is slower than for other vaccine-preventable diseases. There are a number of reasons why (p.10). These include:

- Limited knowledge about the signs and symptoms
- Inadequate surveillance and data
- Lack of innovation in diagnostic tools
- Too-low vaccine uptake and gaps in the vaccines available
- Lack of support and aftercare

To tackle these issues and meet the goals of the Road Map, sustained and reliable funding is needed.



What impact will funding meningitis have?

Investing in all elements of meningitis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and aftercare will reduce cases of meningitis, improve outcomes for people who do experience meningitis & ensure adequate support for families.

According to the WHO, the funding called for in the investment case will also have wider benefits (p.30):

- Improved access to disability support and rehabilitation for everyone.
- Positive impact on equity and global development, particularly for women and girls who disproportionately act as caregivers.
- Strengthened health systems and improved global health security.



What does the investment case ask for?

The investment case sets out a need for US\$440 million between now and 2030 (p.37). Money will be used by the WHO, delivery partners and country governments (p.38). The ask breaks down into:

- US\$130 million for catalytic investment (needed over the next three years to kickstart progress on the Road Map).
- US\$310 million scaling up investment (the wider investment needed up to 2030 to ensure full implementation of the Road Map).



How will the money be used?

Pillar 1: prevention and epidemic control including vaccine rollout, preventing meningitis caused by Group B Streptococcus, combining meningitis care with other health services to strengthen health systems, research & development.

Total: US\$103.9 million
Catalytic: US\$29.6 million

Pillar 2: diagnostics and treatment including integration of meningitis diagnosis and treatment into primary health care, improved diagnostic tools.

Total: US\$83.1 million
Catalytic: US\$21.3 million

Pillar 3: disease surveillance including outbreak protection, building resilient health systems, improved data, resistance and impact of after-effects.

Total: US\$95.2 million
Catalytic: US\$32.3 million

Pillar 4: support and care including detection of after-effects and provision of after-care and support.

Total: US\$97.6 million
Catalytic: US\$29 million

Pillar 5: advocacy and engagement including raising awareness of meningitis and its consequences, empowerment of civil society organisations.

Total: US\$37.5 million
Catalytic: US\$9.9 million

Cross-pillar: including national and global coordination and monitoring & evaluation.

Total: US\$22.7 million
Catalytic: US\$7.8 million



How can advocates use the investment case?

The investment case is an incredibly important tool for everyone working on meningitis, including advocates. The document clearly calls out the importance of raising awareness, fostering behavioural change and pushing for progress towards defeating meningitis. You can directly reference the investment case as evidence of both the importance of your work and the critical need to fund this work, when you are speaking with key decision-makers in your community or country.



What next?

Publication of the investment case is an enormous step forward in the journey to defeating meningitis. We expect a second high-level meeting to take place in 2025 which will set out next steps for fulfilling the investment case's funding asks.

Meningitis Research Foundation's 'Race to 2030' programme aims to keep advocates around the world up to date with the latest progress and next steps in the implementation of the WHO's Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030.

Join the Race to 2030

Are you a civil society organisation or activist who is passionate about seeing meningitis defeated?

Stay informed and join the 'Race to 2030' movement. Find out more [here](#).

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meningitis.org



Notes: This explainer has been created by Meningitis Research Foundation and sets out our current understanding of the WHO's investment case for the Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030. This guide has been created for CoMO members and other civil society organisations to support activists around the world in engaging with, and advocating for, the vision of the WHO Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030.