

Join the race to

2030

Supporting advocates in the race to defeat meningitis

Investment case explainer for civil society

World Health Organization's Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030



The first time we have a clear financial ask for what is needed to **defeat meningitis by 2030**



The **first global gathering** of governments, international institutions, patients and advocates... to push for the much-needed ambition, attention and resourcing

The 26th of April 2024 marked a major milestone in the journey to tackle the devastating impacts of meningitis. Held at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, this was the World Health Organization's (WHO) first high-level meeting to defeat meningitis.

The event was hosted by the French government and was a global call to action to boost commitments towards defeating meningitis by 2030. The high-level meeting also saw the much-anticipated launch of the WHO's investment case for meningitis.

This is the first time a price-tag has been put on what it will take to defeat meningitis. Without the resources set out in this investment case, reaching the goal of defeating meningitis by 2030 remains a hope, not a plan.

This was a critical moment for advocates and civil society to come together and celebrate the occasion, whilst calling for much-needed change. [Watch the high-level meeting in full here.](#)



What is the high-level meeting?

The high-level meeting was the first time governments, international institutions, civil society organisations and people with lived experience of meningitis have officially come together since the launch of the WHO's Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030 in 2020.

The Road Map was developed by WHO, with extensive consultation and input from hundreds of global experts, including people directly affected by meningitis, scientists, country representatives, and civil society organisations like Meningitis Research Foundation and the members of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) network. The Road Map aims to dramatically improve meningitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment, disease monitoring, health advocacy, support and aftercare.

The high-level meeting featured a scientific conference on meningitis which delved into research advances, celebrated successes and planned for milestones ahead. This was accompanied by a session with stakeholders across the world stating their commitment to defeating meningitis. People with personal experience of the disease also took to the stage, **sharing their stories with some of the most powerful decision-makers in global health.**

The high-level meeting took place in the middle of World Immunization Week. This highlights the urgent, global need for vaccine delivery, adequate healthcare and awareness raising campaigns in order to move towards defeating meningitis.



What is the investment case and why is it important?

The investment case sets out the funding requirements, as assessed by the WHO, for each of the Road Map's five pillars (prevention and epidemic control, diagnosis and prevention, disease surveillance, support and care for people affected by meningitis, and advocacy and engagement).

The publication of the investment case is a critical milestone in the journey towards defeating meningitis.

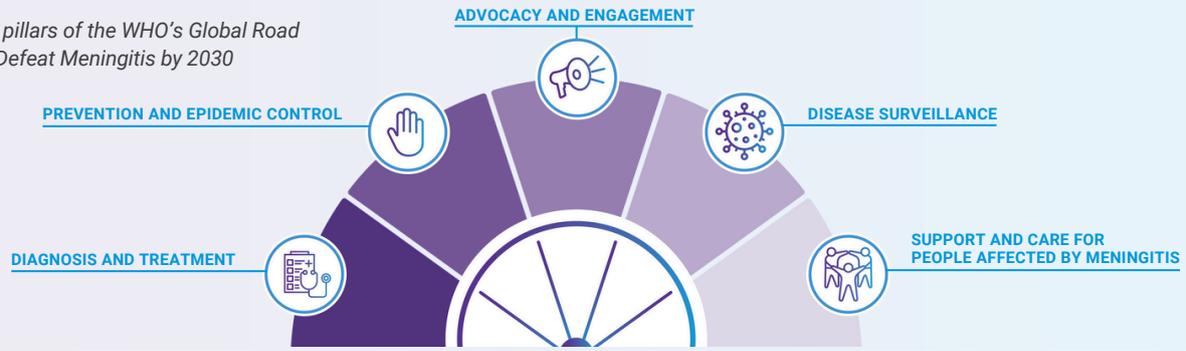
The only way to meet the Road Map's goals in a timely and sustainable way, and to end preventable deaths and the life-changing impacts of meningitis, is to ensure that all five pillars of the Road Map have long-term, sustained and sufficient resourcing. This will help to ensure that **advocates around the world have the evidence they need to push for much-needed action** to enable change nationally, regionally and globally.



Who is the investment case for?

The investment case is an **incredibly important tool for everyone** working on meningitis, including advocates. It is the first time we have a clear financial ask for what is needed to defeat meningitis by 2030. This can be used in our **national, regional and global campaigning** to push policymakers and funders to commit to defeating meningitis.

The five pillars of the WHO's Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030



Why is the investment case important for advocacy?

As we move towards 2030, the first global gathering of governments, international institutions, patients and advocates to focus solely on meningitis must be celebrated and recognised as an opportunity to push for the much-needed ambition, attention and resources to defeat meningitis by 2030.

From engaging with global initiatives such as World Meningitis Day, to individual actions (like meeting with policymakers or holding an event in memory of a loved one), advocates have been pivotal in global progress to tackle meningitis.

Pillar 5 of the Road Map (on advocacy and engagement) focuses on raising **public and political awareness of meningitis** and its impact, including the potential to cause disability, in order to **improve health-seeking behaviour and access to prevention and care**.

Ambitious funding will be critical in enabling advocates around the world to continue their work to achieve the goals of Pillar 5:

1. Ensure that funders and policymakers at the national, regional and global levels recognize that the Road Map to defeat meningitis is prioritised and integrated into country plans at all levels.
2. Ensure awareness, among all populations, of the symptoms, signs and consequences of meningitis, so that people are empowered to seek appropriate health care.
3. Ensure and raise awareness of communities about the impact of meningitis and available support after a meningitis diagnosis.
4. Ensure that people and communities know how to access the vaccines that protect against meningitis, other prevention and support after meningitis, and that they value and demand them.
5. Maintain high vaccine confidence.

What happens next?

You can read more about the investment case and what it means for advocates, individuals and organisations here:

Join the Race to 2030

Are you a civil society organization 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 high-level meeting and investment case launch. 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.

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