

# Accelerating defeating meningitis

## Our 2025 – 2030 strategy | summary

Meningitis is a global health crisis, affecting 2.3 million people annually and causing 214,000 deaths in 2021 alone. Shockingly, 40% of these deaths are in children under five. However, with bold action and collective investment, we can prevent this devastating disease.

At Meningitis Research Foundation, we are committed to ending the suffering caused by meningitis. Our ambitious 2025-2030 strategy focuses on three key areas: **funding research for better evidence**, creating **understanding for better health policy**, and **driving global action for better lives**. Together, these will power defeating meningitis in the UK and worldwide over the next five years.



### Research for better evidence

Research is critical to advancing our understanding of meningitis, improving protection and reducing the long-term impact of the disease. By 2030, we aim to:

- ✓ Invest **up to £1 million** in research focusing on the **use of, and access to, meningitis vaccines** and the **life-long impacts of meningitis**.
- ✓ Launch a new research and engagement programme to gain deeper insights into how **meningitis affects lives long after the initial illness**.
- ✓ Complete our research programme into **meningitis pathogen genomics** for public health applications.
- ✓ Deliver **three international research conferences** and **two research spotlight sessions**, bringing together experts and stakeholders to drive knowledge exchange and innovation.
- ✓ Continue supporting the **Global Meningitis Genome Partnership**, ensuring cutting-edge science is used to improve prevention and treatment worldwide.



### Understanding for better policy

Evidence-based policy is crucial for defeating meningitis. Through analysis and advocacy, we aim to create meaningful change nationally and globally. By 2030, we will have:

- ✓ Published **new insights and policy papers** on vaccine access and improving the quality of life for meningitis survivors.
- ✓ Estimated the **true global burden of meningitis**, including all causes of the disease, to inform better health policies.
- ✓ Expanded our **Meningitis Progress Tracker** to incorporate **data on cryptococcal and tuberculosis meningitis** for the first time.
- ✓ Supported **civil society groups and advocates** to use data effectively, ensuring that policy discussions are driven by real-world evidence.
- ✓ Advocated for the **introduction of a MenB vaccine for teenagers** in the UK, closing critical gaps in protection.



### Act for better lives

Meningitis awareness and advocacy are key to saving lives. By mobilising communities, we can ensure more people receive life-saving protection and support. By 2030, we will have:

- ✓ Grown World Meningitis Day into the **largest day of collective, global action on meningitis**.
- ✓ Strengthened our global advocate network, the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMo) to over **300 members across 60+ countries**.
- ✓ Ensured that meningitis survivors are heard, collecting **over 2,000 personal testimonies** and hosting **five CoMo conferences** to share lived experiences.
- ✓ Developed a **global meningitis health communication strategy**, ensuring that effective, evidence-based awareness is adopted worldwide.



As I type out my meningitis journey using my screen reader, almost a decade has since passed. I never take for granted that I am a meningitis survivor, and I was fortunate to be one of the few who got another chance at life ... today I serve as a speaker and meningitis advocate, adding my voice to the fight to defeat meningitis.

Tendai David Muranganwa, Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO) member and Race to 2030 champion



### Strong foundations for a sustainable future

To achieve these ambitious goals, we need strong foundations that prioritise listening, support, sustainable resources and equity. This includes:

- ✓ Ensuring that the **lived experiences of meningitis survivors** is reflected in all our work, including **establishing a patient panel** to help shape our research priorities.
- ✓ Expanding our **UK and Ireland Ambassador programme**, enabling individuals to reach and inform communities most in need of awareness.
- ✓ Continuing to deliver our UK and Ireland Support Services, **providing the most one-to-one support hours of any meningitis charity in the UK.**
- ✓ Providing **global, 24/7 access to accurate, comprehensive online health information**, developed in collaboration with our Ambassadors and CoMO members.
- ✓ Maintaining our active role in global health networks, including the **World Health Organization Technical Task Force** for the *Global Road Map to Defeat Meningitis by 2030*.

Defeating meningitis is urgent yet achievable. Your funding will directly contribute to life-saving research, stronger health policy and advocacy, and better support for people affected by meningitis. By 2030, we can achieve:

- Better protection from meningitis through expanded access and uptake of vaccines.
- Dedicated, patient-centred support for meningitis survivors and their families.
- A strong global movement, working together to keep meningitis high on the public health agenda.

**With your support, we can defeat meningitis. Together we can stop cases of meningitis, save lives and give survivors and their families the support they desperately need.**



**meningitis.org**

**#DefeatMeningitis**