

Our Fair Share?

Has the United States pledged its fair share to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria?

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is the world's war chest in the battle against the trio of deadly infectious diseases that most afflict the poor. But in October, a cash shortfall forced fund trustees to borrow \$101 million from expected future donations in order to finance this year's grants for life-saving prevention, treatment, and care programs. The United Nations and the World Health Organization describe the fund as seriously "under-resourced" and observers anticipate a crisis when spending requirements escalate in 2005.

Can the fund's coffers be filled in time? Easily, say nongovernmental organizations like the Global Fund Observer and the Fund the Fund campaign. They propose an "equitable contributions framework" in which each donor country would contribute to the total required funds in proportion to its share of the world economy. The table below shows how the United States measures up to this simple standard of fairness.

—Adria Scharf

	PERCENT OF WORLD GDP	PLEGGED FOR 2002-2004 (\$ MILLIONS)	EQUITABLE CONTRIBUTION* FOR 2002-2004 (\$ MILLIONS)	SHORTFALL FOR 2002-2004 (\$ MILLIONS)	PERCENT OF EQUITABLE CONTRIBUTION PLEGGED
United States	33%	\$825	\$1,933	-\$1,108	43%
Europe:	27%	\$1,383	\$1,610	-\$226	86%
France	4%	\$294	\$248	\$47	119%
Germany	6%	\$50	\$356	-\$306	14%
Italy	3%	\$200	\$207	-\$7	96%
United Kingdom	4%	\$168	\$267	-\$99	63%
Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden	3%	\$249	\$193	\$56	129%
Other	6%	\$421	\$339	\$82	124%
Canada	2%	\$75	\$129	-\$54	58%
Japan	14%	\$200	\$807	-\$607	25%
Other countries	25%	\$134	\$1,467	-\$1,333	9%
TOTAL	100%	\$2,617	\$5,945**	-\$3,328	44%

* Equal to share of world GDP.

** Includes a \$1 billion reserve because Global Fund funding requirements are projected to escalate beginning in 2005. The United Nations and the World Health Organization estimate that beginning in 2005, more than \$10.5 billion a year will be needed for basic prevention, care, and support programs, requiring a twelve-fold increase over 2003 funding levels.

Data are from an analysis by Bernard Rivers of Aidspan <www.aidspace.org/gfo/docs/gfo57a.xls>. Thanks to Aidspace, publisher of the *Global Fund Observer Newsletter*, for permission to print this information. Visit the Aidspace website at <www.aidspace.org>.