



Department
of Health



Ross Fund

Summary



January 2016

Ross Fund

The £1 billion Ross Fund was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November 2015 and will be managed by Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department of Health (DH). The Ross Fund is named after Sir Ronald Ross, the first ever British Nobel Laureate who was recognised for his discovery that mosquitoes transmit malaria.

The Goal

The Ross fund aims to develop, test and deliver a range of new products (including vaccines, drugs and diagnostics) to help combat the world's most serious diseases in developing countries.

Overview of the Ross Fund

The UK is a leader in the global fight against infectious diseases (which disproportionately affect the poorest people, exacerbate instability and threaten our UK national security). The UK has historically been at the forefront of research and development for infectious diseases, as demonstrated by Sir Ronald Ross's work on malaria more than a century ago. The UK is still in the vanguard, leading the international humanitarian response in Sierra Leone in the battle against the deadly Ebola virus.

The government has created the Ross Fund for research and development in products for infectious diseases and to strengthen delivery of new products, bringing together its investment into:

- **Anti-microbial resistance (AMR)** that is becoming an increasing threat globally, including diseases such as malaria and TB, with emerging drug and insecticide resistance
- **Diseases with epidemic potential**, such as Ebola, that can rapidly spread if not stopped early
- **Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)** that affect over a billion people worldwide, causing disability, disfigurement and death

The Fund will consist of a range of world leading investments in research and development. The Ross Fund will include over £350 million for development of new products, in addition to research into how these can most effectively be delivered. These will include:

- **Vaccines and diagnostics** to prevent and respond to future **disease outbreaks**, such as Ebola
- **Drugs, diagnostics and insecticides** to tackle the growing threat of **diseases of emerging resistance** including malaria and TB
- **Drugs and diagnostics** for **NTDs**

The fund will contribute to malaria and NTD implementation (as part of the UK's wider and very substantial support in this area). The fund will also improve knowledge and understanding of the scale of AMR through building capability and capacity of laboratories and health systems in low and middle income countries, to collect and share data with relation to AMR.

The government will work closely with the World Health Organisation, foundations, pharmaceutical companies, philanthropic organisations, product developers and academic institutions in delivering this fund.

Funding within the Ross Fund

The Ross Fund is a portfolio of programmes, led by either DFID or DH. The specific projects include expansion of existing mechanisms as well as establishing new mechanisms, with a number of these currently under development.

In November 2015 the government announced that the Ross Fund included:

- £100 million for research and development for infectious diseases
- £90 million for malaria implementation, as part of the UK's investment towards reducing deaths from malaria by 90% by 2030
- £115 million to develop new drugs, diagnostics and insecticides for diseases of emerging resistance (including malaria and TB)

In addition, the Ross Fund will include:

1. £315 million **fighting AMR** including:

- Investing £265m in the **Fleming Fund** to strengthen surveillance of drug resistance and laboratory capacity in developing countries
- Delivering the new **Global AMR Innovation Fund**, launched with China for research and innovation to tackle AMR

2. £188 million focussed on prevention and response to future **disease outbreaks** such as Ebola, through:

- Investing an extra £100m in **vaccines** (on top of £20m previously committed to the **UK Vaccine Network**)
- Investing in **bio-preparedness** to further work on development of infectious disease vaccines and drugs
- Investing in product development of **diagnostics** for diseases of epidemic potential
- Developing a **UK Rapid Response Team**, able to respond to an infectious disease outbreak within 48 hours
- Research to **accelerate the trialling and regulation** of medical technologies when an international outbreak is declared

3. £200 million to tackle **NTDs**, which includes:

- Development of **products, including drugs and diagnostics**
- Continuing the UK's considerable investments in **prevention and treatment**. For example, extending work towards the eradication of guinea worm disease so that no one in the world will ever suffer from this devastating disease ever again. We will also continue to tackle blinding trachoma, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and visceral leishmaniasis, in our effort to control or eliminate these diseases.

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