GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY OPEN LETTER

FINLAND GENDER EQUALITY CHAMPION

Dear Minister Ville Skinnari,

The global fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, is at a turning point. The world has set itself the ambitious target, enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, of ending the three diseases as epidemic by 2030. We have made tremendous progress. In the twenty years since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has supported programs that have saved over 44 million lives and gotten us ever closer to our 2030 targets. This would not have been possible without the commitment of donors like Finland, who contributed over EUR25 million from 2006 to 2013.

Many lives have been saved, but the three diseases have not gone away. Worse, because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have lost ground in 2020, for the first time since the creation of the Global Fund. Testing, treatment, and prevention for HIV declined, and, most tragically, deaths from tuberculosis and malaria have increased. We have to stop the backslide. It is in these difficult circumstances that we call on Finland to reengage and make a pledge for the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund.

To be able to address the setbacks and get back on track to end AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria as epidemics by 2030, the Global Fund Investment Case for the seventh replenishment calls for a total of at least US$18 billion in 2023-2025, a 30% increase from the 2019 funding target. The United States, under the leadership of President Biden, have already announced their intention to commit an unprecedented US$6 billion for the Seventh Replenishment, putting us on track to a successful replenishment.

We urge Finland to rejoin the global effort to end the three diseases, and to add its weight to the momentum building around the Seventh Replenishment, to inspire other governments to take action. A pledge by Finland would contribute to:

- **Save 20 million lives** between 2024 and 2026 in the countries supported by the Global Fund.
- **Reduce the death toll** across the three diseases to 950,000 in 2026, down from 2.4 million in 2020.
- **Avert more than 450 million new infections or cases** in the countries supported by the Global Fund.
- **Catalyze domestic investments of up to US$59 billion** through co-financing requirements and technical assistance on health financing.
- **Reduce inequities in health services** by addressing gender-related and human rights barriers to access.
- **Strengthening systems for health and pandemic preparedness** to prevent and respond to future pandemics.
• **Yield a return on investment of 1:31** with every dollar invested in fighting the three diseases resulting in 31 dollars in health gains and economic returns.

The Global Fund prioritizes lower-income countries with a higher burden of disease, while paying special attention to key and vulnerable populations and the right to health for these groups, including LGBTI+ people, women, and adolescent girls.

**The fight against the three disease is a fight for gender equality.** The Global Fund spends close to 33% of its resources on programs supporting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SHRH), because HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria disproportionately affect women and girls. Opportunistic infections resulting from HIV are the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age globally, and about one third of all pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa suffer from malaria. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Fund supported 11.5 million pregnant women to receive preventive therapy for malaria, and thanks to its investment more than 85% of pregnant women living with HIV now have access to medicine preventing transmission to their babies. Looking ahead, a successful Seventh Replenishment would enable the Global Fund to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in most affected countries by 72%.

The Global Fund also delivers impact in challenging operating environments. Countries facing conflict or other crises receive about one third of Global Fund investments, and the Global Fund reacts quickly to deploy additional resources in countries in crisis, like Ukraine following the invasion by Russia. Prior to the attack by Russian forces, the Global Fund had invested a total of $850 million in the country, where HIV and tuberculosis rates – particularly multidrug-resistant tuberculosis – are some of the highest in Europe. Global Fund investments have helped to reduce new HIV infections to around a third of the number in 2002, and almost halved the number of people living with tuberculosis. Additional funding was mobilized in less than a week by the Global Fund to ensure that, through the course of the war, people living with HIV and tuberculosis are still able to receive the essential services and treatment to reduce the spread of infectious diseases across the region.

We, the Global Fund Advocates Network, and the civil society and community organizations listed below, hope that you hear our call, and provide a strong pledge and commitment to the Global Fund – to put an end to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

We urge Finland to stand with us to leave no one behind and defend the health of the world’s most marginalized and vulnerable.

The Global Fund Advocates Network, with support from the 250 civil society and communities organization listed below:

- Aadhar NAP+ BHAUUDESHIYA Santha Amravati
- Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (ACHIEVE)
- Adhar Bahuudeshiya Sanstha
- Africa Japan Forum
- African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development (ANAYD)
- Agra Positive People Welfare society, AGRA
- Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF)
- AIDS-Fondet (the Danish AIDS Foundation)
- Aidsfonds
- Aidsspan
- AKTA
Allahabad network for people living with HIV/AIDS society
APCASO
Ashar Alo Society (AAS)
Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM)
Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+)
Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW)
Asia Pacific Transgender Network Association d’Assistance au Développement (ASAD)
Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)
Association Of People Living With HIV (APLHIV)-Pakistan
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Ayarhep
Aye Myanmar Association (AMA)
Azamgarh positive network of people living with HIV/AIDS Society
BAMANEH
Banaras Network for Positive People Living with HIV/AIDS Society
Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
BAPSA
BGMEA TB Control Project
Bhilwara Network for people living with HIV/AIDS sansthan
Bihar Network For People Living With HIV/AIDS Society
Bikaner Network for Peoples Living With HIV Sansthan(BNP+)
BKMEA TB Control Project
Blossomtrust
Blue Diamond Society
Blue Star CBO
BRAC
Cam Pha Blue Sea
Cambodia People living with HIV Network (CPN+)
Cambodian Women for Peace and Development
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
Caritas PSE
Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)
Centre for Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum - CEHRDF
Churu Network for People Living With HIV/AIDS Sansthan
Club des Amis Damien "CAD"
Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA) Malawi
Coimbatore Network for Positive People (CNP+)
Communities Delegation Stop TB Partnership
Community and Family AID Foundation - Ghana
Community Health and Inclusion Association (CHIAs)
Community Social Development Foundation
Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) - Zimbabwe
Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD).
Council of People Living with HIV AIDS of Kerala (CPK+)
CPE
Cuddalore District HIV Positive Society (CDS+)
Cultura LLC
Damien Foundation
Deoria network for people living with AIDS Society
Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)
Dharmapuri District HIV Positive Welfare Society (DDPWS+)
Dindigul District HIV Positive Society (DDS+)
Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
Diversity And Solidarity Trust Sri Lanka
Drug Users Network (DUNE)
Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS and Health Service Organization (EANNASO)
ECOM - Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity
Equal Asia Foundation
Estrela+ Timor Leste
Fatayat NU Jawa
Female Plus
FKPB Batang
Friends Frangipani Inc-PNG
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Friends-International (FI)
Gaya Patriot Bekasi
Geeta Mahila uthan ssmitti
Global Coalition of TB Advocates
Global Health Italian Network
Good Health Community Programmes
Gujarat state network of people living with HIV/AIDS GSNP
Gujarat State Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GSNP+)
Guruprasad Hadoti Network for People Living With HIV/AIDS Samiti Kota
Hai Duong Belief CBO
Hathras positive peoples welfare society
Health Action Coordinating Committee
Health and Development Alliance (HEAD)
Health Care Community of Positive Peoples, Ambajogai
HEED Bangladesh
Hi Voices
Home Coming
Home4Youth Association
Hope for Future Generations
Human and Natural Resose Development Foundation
Humraz Male Health Society
IAKMI Sulawesi Tenggara
IDUCARE
Igat Hope Inc.
Image Social Welfare Organization
Impact santé Afrique
India Working Group on Health Advocacy
Indonesia AIDS Coalition
Innovations for Development
INSET
International Youth Council-Yemen (IYCY)
Jabalpur Network of people Living with HIV/ AIDS Society
Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy
Jaringan Indonesia Positif (JIP)
Jaunpur Network for HIV positive People Living with AIDS Society
Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (FGFJ)
Kalinga Network for People Living With HIV/AIDS (KNP+)
Kelompok Kerja Bina Sehat
Khwaja Sira Society
Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA)
Khulna Mukti Seba Sangstha (KMSS)
Kindness Coalition
Korean Advocates for Global Health
Korean Advocates for Global Health (KAGH)
KP Mahakam Plus Kaltim
KP Yayasan Pontianak Plus
Kushinagar welfare for people living with AIDS Society
Lanka Plus
Lensu Sukabumi
Lhak-Sam, Bhutan Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (BNP+)
LHL International
Life Care Society for Underprivileged (HP)
Life vs Addiction Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre
Lighthouse Social Enterprise
LKKNU Kalsel
LKPBNU
Love Life Society
Malaria No More Japan
MAMATA
Maryknoll Sisters
Mau Positive Network of People living with HIV/AIDS Society
MDG Achieving Organization
Medan Plus
Men’s Health Social Service (MHSS)
Mithuru Mithuro Movement
Moradabad Network Positive Welfare Society
Nalgonda Youth positive society people living HIV/AIDS (NYP+)
NAPUD [Network of Asian People who Use Drugs]
NAPUD
Nari Matree (NM)
National AIDS Coalition of Bangladesh (NATAB)
National association of PLHWA In Nepal (NAP+N)
National TB Network Nepal (NTBNN)
National Transgender Network Sri Lanka
Network for chennai People Living with HIV/AIDS (NCP+)
Network for Positive People in Trichy (NPT+)
Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD)
Network of Aurangabad By People Living with HIV
Network of Hingoli by people living with HIV Hingoli
Network of Kolhapur by People living with HIV/AIDS
Network of Maharashtra by People Living with HIV/AIDS (NMP+)
Network of Parbhani Distrcit By People Living With HIV/AIDS
Network of PLHIV(NOP+),
Network of Solapur by People living with HIV/AIDS
Network of TB Champions Kenya
Nishkriti
NONGOR
Paribar Kallayan Samity (PKS)
Perambalur District Network For HIV
Positive People (PDNP+)
PETIK
Pime Sisters Khulna
Pinoy Plus Advocacy Pilipinas, Inc.
Place Tokyo
PNG National Key Population Advocacy
Consortium
Positive Action Foundation Philippines Inc.
(PAFPI)
Positive Malaysian Treatment Access &
Advocacy Group (MTAAG+)
POSITIVE WOMEN SOCIETY NETWORK
PPTI Balikpapan
Pratapgarh Network for People Living with
HIV/AIDS
Prayias Network of Positive People
Welfare society (PNPP)
PT Foundation
Pudukottai District HIV Positive people
Welfare Society (PDPS+)
Pusako
Puthuvai Cluny Social Service Trust
Queer Voices of Bhutan
Rajarata Gami Pahana
RDRS Bangladesh
Rekat Peduli Indonesia
Resource Integration Centre (RIC)
Results Australia
Results Canada
Results UK
RFSLS, Sweden
Saburai Support Group
Sanjeevan Bahu-udeshiya Samaj Seva
Sanstha, Nagpur
Sarthi Kalyankari Sanstha Bhandara (NBP+)
Saviya Development Foundation
Senior Independent Advisor
Siddharth Nagar welfare for people living
with HIV/AIDS Society Basti
SPEK-HAM
Spirit Paramacitta
Srikandi Perintis Mandiri
Stop TB Canada
Stop TB Partnership Japan
Stop TB Partnership Promoting
Parliamentary Federation
STOPAIDS
Strategic Alliance for Research and
Development
Strategic Poverty Alleviation Systems-
SPAS
Strumphet Alliance Network (SPAN)
Subrang Society
Survival Advocacy Network
Tamilnad Network of Positive People
Tamilnadu Positive Women Network
(TPWN+)
TB Champions Association of Botswana
TB Community Representative
TB people Ukraine
Terengganu Family Planning Association
Thanjavur district network of positive
people TDNP+
The Leprosy Mission International-
Bangladesh (TLMI-B)
The Sun Kien Giang
TICAD NGO Liaison Group
Tilottama Voluntary Women's
Organization
Tiruvannamalai District HIV Positive
Society(TDHP+)
Touched by TB
Treasureland Health Builders Initiative
Trisuli Plus
Tuticorin District HIV Positive People
Welfare Society (TDPS+)
Uttar Pradesh Welfare for People Living
with HIV/AIDS Society
Venasa Transgender Network
Victory Plus Yogyakarta
Vietnam Community Network to Fight
Tuberculosis (VCTB)
Vietnam Network of People living with HIV
(VNP+)
Venato Decontamination Training
Vulnerable Populations
Virudhunagar District HIV Ullor Nala
Sangam
Vision makers
Wahana Cita Indonesia
Wasaii Sanwaro
Wanosobo Youth Center
World Mission Prayer League (LAMB
hospital)
WOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS CBO
Y-Chapter
Yash Foundation
Yen Bai Violet Afternoon CBO
YKMNU Jawa Tengah
Young Out Here Sri Lanka Trust
Youth for Health Center NGO
Youth Foundation of Bangladesh
Youth LEAD
Youth Survival Organisation
Youth Voices Count, Inc.
ZNNP+