

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+ BHAUDESHEIYA Santha
Amravati
Action for Health Initiatives, Inc.
(ACHIEVE)
Adhar Bahuddeshiya 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
Aidspan
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 ssmiiti
 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+) Odisha
 Kelompok Kerja Bina Sehat
 Khawaja Sira Society
 Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA)
 Khulna Mukti Seba Sangstha (KMSS)
 Kindness Coallition
 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

Lensa 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 (NYPS+)
 NAPUD [Network of Asian People who Use Drugs]
 Nari Matree (NM)
 National Anti Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB)
 National association of PLWHA 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 Distrct 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
 Prayas Network of Positive People
 Welfare society (PNPP)
 PT Foundation
 Pudukkottai 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
 RFSL, 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(TDHPS+)
 Touched by TB
 Treasureland Health Builders Initiative
 Trisuli Plus
 Tuticorin District HIV Positive People Welfare Society (TDPS+)
 Ujjain HIV AIDS Network Pipul'Society
 UN Foundation/United to Beat Malaria
 UTPS
 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+)
 Vietnam Platform for Supporting Vulnerable Populations
 Virudhunagar District HIV Ullor Nala Sangam
 Vision makers
 Wahana Cita Indonesia
 Wasaib Sanworo
 Wonosobo 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+