

# Civil Society Open letter to the members of the G20

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 epidemics 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 (Global Fund) 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 the donors of the Group of Twenty, who have contributed the large majority of the funds that made these advances possible.

COVID-19 has also put at the forefront the leadership of the G20 in pandemic response, and the Global Fund and its implementing partners were able, when the pandemic hit, to pivot rapidly and provide services to support the G20's objectives. Indonesia built onto the work of the Italian G20 Presidency by fostering collaboration within the group in key areas, including the establishment of the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Financial Intermediary Fund (PPPR FIF). The PPPR FIF is creating new opportunities for investment in pandemic preparedness, and will be able to channel more funding to entities which, like the Global Fund, have been pillars of the response to COVID-19 and have a long record of investment for impact.

The Global Fund new strategy includes an evolving objective on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and a Feb 2021 analysis in the Lancet showed that over a third of the Global Fund's investments support global health security. As a key partner and implementing agency of the ACT-A, the Global Fund led the way in securing close to an additional \$5 billion in funds for its COVID-19 Response Mechanism. These funds were used to support countries acquire and utilize COVID-19 diagnostics and other tools, and greatly contributed to the level of support, access to diagnostics and treatments and broader surveillance they had during the pandemic.

The response to tuberculosis was especially heavily disrupted by COVID-19, because of a range of factors including overlap in symptoms and control tools. The G20 Ministry of Health meeting in late October, in view of that fact, reiterated once again the need to increase funding to fight tuberculosis among its six key actions. The Global Fund accounts for 70-80% of all external financing for tuberculosis program, making it the largest external funder for the disease, and needs to be given the means to support country to get back on track towards the 2030 target.

Disruptions caused by COVID-19 affected malaria and HIV/AIDS programs as well. **Because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we 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. In 2021, the disease

trajectory of most countries improved as Global Fund program were able to adapt to the pandemic; and yet in many places we still have to make up for the progress lost, as shown in the Global Fund 2022 Results Report.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022, the United States hosted in New York the Pledging Conference for the 7<sup>th</sup> Replenishment. The Global Fund raised \$14.25 billion, an unprecedented amount, but one that falls short of both need and expectations. It is simply not enough for the Sustainable Development Goal targets to be met, and for the Global Fund's new strategy to be fully implemented. Many of the 20 million lives, that could be saved if the target of \$18 billion had been reached, are once again at risk. Until we reach that target, our work is not done.

The Pledging Conference was marked by ambitious, decisive pledges who met – or far, far exceeded, as of the Republic of Korea – the target of a 30% increase from the 6<sup>th</sup> Replenishment pledges. As representatives of civil society and affected communities, we are immensely thankful. Other countries, marking their rising influence on the world stage and commitment to achieving collective development targets, made their first pledges to the Global Fund. Indonesia, befitting its role as President of the G20, rose to the occasion and became one of these first time donors.

Indonesia was the only first time donor among the G20 in 2022. Of concern, both China and India, who had pledged in 2019, did not return, signaling an apparent lack of interest in collective leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Now, the world is about to turn its attention to the nations of the G20 meeting in Bali on November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, with health high onto the agenda. It is time to remedy the missed opportunities of New York and put us back on track.

As representatives of affected communities and committed health advocates, we ask:

- That the United Kingdom and Italy, who announced that commitment would be forthcoming, pledge early enough to ensure that their funds can be included in the Global Fund country allocations.
- That India and China reclaim their role as leading nations in Global Health and commit to pledge, and increase their pledges in line with the rest of the G20.
- That Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey, who have not been/become regular contributors to the Global Fund use the platform of the G20 meeting to make ambitious first pledges.

Signed by the civil society and community organizations listed below:

Organization	Country
Africa Japan Forum	Japan
Aid Organization	Bangladesh

Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF)	Global
AIDS-Fondet (The Danish AIDS Foundation)	Danemark
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development	India
BAHAM Foundation	Pakistan
Bengal Network Of People Living With HIV/AIDS	West Bengal
Botswana Network of AIDS Service Organizations	Botswana
Coalition of women living with HIV and AIDS	Malawi
Community Health Empowerment Forum	Eswarini
Disability Peoples Forum Uganda	UGANDA
Empowered At Dusk Women's Association	Uganda
Girls Advocacy Network-Ghana	Ghana, West Africa
Global Fund Advocates Network	Global
Global Health Italian Network	Italy
Good Health Community Programmes	Kenya
Grassroots Development & Empowerment Foundation	NIGERIA
HivNorway	Norge
Hope for Future Generations	Ghana
Impact santé Afrique	Africa
India Working Group for Health Advocacy	India
Indian Drug Users' Forum	India
Indonesian Harm Reduction Network	Indonesia
Innovations for Development (I4DEV)	Uganda
IPPF	India
IWG	India
Karitas Sani Madani Foundation	Indonesia
KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation	Global
Kuboresha-Africa Limited	Uganda
LHL International Tuberculosis Foundation	Norway
National coalition of people living with HIV in India	India
NCPI+	India
Network of TB Champions	Kenya
Network of TB Champions kenya	Kenya
PATH	India
Princess of Africa Foundation	Africa

R2H Action - Right to Health	United States
Results Australia	Australia
RWS - India's diverse Chamber	India
Senderos Asociación Mutual	Colombia
Spiritia	Indonesia
STOPAIDS	United Kingdom
Tanzania Health Promotion Support	Tanzania
Telugu Network of people Living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+)	Andhra Pradesh, India
Touch by TB	New Delhi
Voluntary Health Association of Tripura	India
Volunteer work with Gujarat State Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GSNP+)	India
Zankli Research Center	North Central Nigeria
Zankli Research Centre Nigeria	Nigeria
ZCCT	Zimbabwe
Zvandiri	Zimbabwe