

March 22, 2022

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515

Senator Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Kay Granger
1026 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Barbara Lee
2470 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chris Coons
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Harold Rogers
2406 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Lee, Ranking Member Rogers, Senator Leahy, Senator Shelby, Senator Coons, and Senator Graham:

As private sector corporations and organizations, we come together to urge you as leaders in Congress to support \$2.0 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Fiscal Year 2023.

In a year where the United States will host the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference, we ask you to provide this increased funding because of the Global Fund's proven lifesaving results and the need to get back on track and accelerate progress against AIDS, TB and malaria programs. That figure represents a 33% portion of the Global Fund's Replenishment target in the first of three years, which will propel other donors to act too.

In addition to all the lives lost, the economic costs of COVID-19 and of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are enormous. COVID-19 has cost 20% of global GDP, or \$18 trillion, with the largest burden on lower-income, indebted nations. Prudence and foresight call for measures to end the worst epidemics of today and curb the economic and human costs of future pandemics. Investments in the Global Fund will avert much larger costs to the world economy and humankind. The overall return on investment in the Global Fund for every \$1 is \$31.

Impact: The Global Fund's massive impact is undeniable. The Global Fund and its partners have saved 44 million lives since its founding in 2002--reducing the death toll from HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria by 40% in countries where it invests.

Backtracking under COVID-19: Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, progress has backtracked. Compared to the previous year, in 2020 HIV preventions services reached 11% fewer people, and HIV testing decreased by 22%. Over one million fewer people were treated for TB, and the persistent challenge of unreported and undiscovered cases grew. In the same period, malaria incidence grew by 14

million cases, even as malaria testing declined by 4%. If not for the Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response Mechanism, these reversals would have been more acute.

Challenges to surmount: Getting back on track to ending AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics entails several problems beyond even COVID-19. Women and girls remain particularly vulnerable to the diseases. Other key populations face stigma and lack of access to care. The burgeoning youth population in Africa and elsewhere means that responses must accelerate to keep up with growing disease exposure. Multidrug resistance to therapies and resistance to malaria bed net insecticides must be overcome.

Global Fund’s strengths: The Global Fund offers comparative competencies. It makes prevention, diagnostic and therapeutic tools more available to implementing countries’ populations by large-scale pooled procurement, bolstering supply chains and speeding innovations to deployment. It invests over US \$1 billion per year to strengthen health systems against AIDS, TB, malaria and for pandemic preparedness (e.g., funding labs, surveillance, and local health workers). Its reach includes working effectively with over 120 countries and offers an architecture to address pandemics ready-made to scale up. The Global Fund has deep relationships with authorities, community caregivers, and affected populations. Also, it prioritizes accountability through robust impact metrics, monitoring, inspector general functions and whistleblower protection.

Benefits: Scaling investment in the Global Fund serves America, its economy and its people. The U.S. demonstrates impactful, humane generosity through the Global Fund and bilateral global health programs, which collaborate closely. Lives saved and empowered to thrive lift up the world economy and demands for U.S. exports. The Global Fund reduces infectious disease threats to Americans. Moreover, the legislative cap of 33% on the Global Fund budget means U.S. commitments have won 2 to 1 matched burden-sharing from other donors for two decades.

For these reasons we ask for an increased US investment in the Global Fund to \$2.0 billion in FY23. We must accelerate progress against AIDS, TB and malaria *and* bolster health systems accessible to all and resilient against new pandemics. The U.S. hosting the Replenishment calls for investment in a tested asset with proven track record to elicit others’ sizable contributions. We stand ready to help meet this moment.

Sincerely,

Aegon-Transamerica	Novartis
Business Alliance Against Malaria	(RED)
Cepheid	Roche
Dimagi	Sanofi
GBCHealth	Takeda
GE Healthcare	Thermo Fisher Scientific
Gilead	UPS Foundation
GlaxoSmithKline	Vestergaard
Hetero Labs	Viatrix
Johnson & Johnson	ViiV Healthcare
MTV Staying Alive Foundation	Zenysis Technologies