

The European Commission must scale up its contribution to the Global Fund

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria launched its 7th replenishment campaign in February 2022, announcing that it seeks to raise at least US\$ 18 billion to get the world back on track towards ending HIV, TB and malaria, build resilient and sustainable systems for health and strengthen pandemic preparedness. This ambitious target reflects the scale of the challenge. Across many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on already overstretched health systems and has exacerbated inequities. For the first time since the Global Fund's founding 20 years ago, the world has lost ground in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

The creation of the Global Fund was an act of unprecedented global solidarity by world leaders, including the European Commission (EC). We are now at a pivotal moment in the response to the three diseases. The EC must again rise to the challenge and do **whatever it takes** to protect everyone, everywhere from the deadliest epidemics and set us on course for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We call on the European Commission to make an early pledge of € 715 million to the Global Fund's replenishment campaign. An early pledge will build momentum in the lead-up to the Pledging Conference by galvanising other European and international donors to scale up their investments.

Unpacking the numbers

WHY € 715 MILLION?

€ 715 million represents a 30% increase in the EC's current contribution (€ 550 million).

WHY +30%?

The impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and malaria has been dramatic: every global HIV target for 2020 was missed, the number of people treated for TB fell by over 1 million and malaria deaths increased significantly. As a result, global resource needs for the three diseases have grown to an estimated US\$ 130 billion (+30%). Of this, the Global Fund is expected to cover at least US\$ 18 billion.¹

WHY AT LEAST US\$ 18 BILLION?

Projections of available resources foresee a financing gap of US\$ 28 billion. US\$ 18 billion is therefore the bare minimum.

WITH US\$ 18 BILLION, BY 2026 THE GLOBAL FUND WILL:

- Save 20 million more lives (2024-2026)
- Catalyse domestic investments of up to US\$ 59 billion
- Strengthen inclusive systems for health and pandemic preparedness
- Spur €28 in economic returns and health gains for every € invested

**Whatever
It
Takes**



Photo: The Global Fund/Alexia Webster

¹ Data used in this paper come from the [Global Fund 2021 Results Report](#) and the [Global Fund Investment Case](#).

Why should the EU increase its investments in the Global Fund?

The Global Fund is a partnership like no other for the European Commission*

As a founding member of the Global Fund, the EC has helped shape the aspects that make the Fund unique in global health: an inclusive partnership approach, comprehensive engagement with affected communities and a country-led funding model. The EC has also steadily increased its financial support in the Global Fund, with a total of € 2.6 billion invested to date.

The Global Fund delivers

The Global Fund is not just the world's largest pool fund for global health, but one of the best-performing global initiatives. In countries where it invests, it has contributed to a 40% reduction in the number of deaths caused by AIDS, TB and malaria. Since 2002, the Global Fund has saved more than 44 million lives.

The Global Fund will help the world get back on track towards reaching the SDGs

ENDING HIV, TB AND MALARIA

Despite the Global Fund's swift response, innovative mitigation approaches and robust actions led by communities, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed progress against HIV, TB and malaria. **Given the magnitude of the setback, only increased investments will allow us to regain momentum, significantly reduce the number of cases and deaths from these diseases – and get the world back on track to end HIV, TB and malaria by 2030.**

BUILDING RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS AND STRENGTHENING PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

A recent study published in the Lancet** shows that one-third of the Global Fund's investments in HIV, TB and malaria also contribute to pandemic preparedness. What's more, the Fund is the largest multilateral provider of grants for health systems, investing US\$ 1 billion a year – a figure that will be doubled in the next financial cycle. The Global Fund is one of the few institutions that recognises the unique role of affected communities in delivering services, reaching the most marginalised and building strong

community systems. **With increased support, the Fund can do more to support countries' efforts to build people-centred, rights-based and integrated systems for health that are better able to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases.**

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

The Global Fund takes a rights-based and gender-responsive approach to fighting pandemics, notably by investing in community-led programmes. Pervasive human-rights and gender-related violations increase vulnerability to HIV, TB and malaria and limit access to services. The Global Fund's 2023-2028 strategy commits to intensified action to address inequities, human rights and gender-related barriers. **Investing in the Global Fund is critical to ensure that health systems are truly universal, leaving no one behind.**

INCREASING DOMESTIC RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

The Global Fund acts as a powerful catalyst for domestic resource mobilisation, with at least US\$ 17.7 billion in additional resources for health leveraged since 2015. By supporting countries to develop sustainable financing approaches, the Fund helps them respond to the unmet needs of their population. **Investing in the Global Fund will increase the quantity and quality of domestic investments in health, reducing overreliance on inequitable out-of-pocket expenses by patients and overdependence on external funding.**

The European Parliament supports an increase in contributions to the Global Fund

In May 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on HIV/AIDS calling on the EC to "address AIDS as a global public health crisis and accelerate all efforts to meet the 2025 targets, including through scaling-up investments in UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria".

* See Aidsfonds, GHA and Friends of the Global Fund, "The European Commission and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: A partnership like no other" here: <https://bit.ly/partnership-like-no-other>

** See <https://bit.ly/3idZq06>

