

Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific
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Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Thailand

30th August 2019

Mr. Bill Gates
Co-Chair
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
PO Box 23350
Seattle, WA 98102
United States of America

Dear Mr. Gates,

During the Fifth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), covering for the 2017-2019 allocation period, you pledged a total of **USD 649.23 million**. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed to date **USD 2.03 billion** to the fight against the three diseases through the Global Fund since its inception in 2002.

The Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific (GFAN AP) along with advocates, activists and representatives of communities living with, affected by, and/or vulnerable to the three diseases in Asia-Pacific appreciate your contributions to the fight against the three diseases which has supported to save over 27 million lives and continue to build resilient and sustainable systems for health, promote and protect human rights, and advance gender equality.

We cannot get out of our minds how your contributions have catalysed funding contributions alongside public donors, and other private sector and private foundation donors to the Global Fund. The continuous support that donors including yourself to the Global Fund, sends the message that you do care about us, the fight against the three diseases, and improving the lives of those most impacted and vulnerable to them!

Empowering the poorest, especially women and girls, to transform their lives and combating infectious diseases that particularly affect the poorest are among the key focus areas of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and are in perfect harmony with the priorities of the Global Fund. Global Fund investments also promote gender equality and addresses human rights barriers through its grants. The Global Fund insists on the meaningful engagement of women throughout the design and implementation of the programmes it funds. The Global Fund has a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and devotes more than one-third of its funding to Health Systems Strengthening (over USD 1 billion per year). Global Fund grants support comprehensive sexuality education and programmes to address gender-based violence. The Global Fund also provides funding for education and economic empowerment programmes for adolescent girls and young women, who are disproportionately affected by HIV.

This year, the Global Fund embarked on its Sixth Replenishment process to raise at least USD 14 billion which will help to save 16 million lives, cut the mortality rate from HIV, TB and malaria in half, and contribute towards stronger health systems by 2023. Technical partners have estimated the total funding need for AIDS, TB and malaria at USD 46 billion annually of which, as the *Get Back on Track to End the Epidemics* report¹ by the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) estimates, at least USD 16.8 to USD 18 billion should be invested through the Global Fund for the Sixth Replenishment (2020-2022).

In 2015, World Leaders committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, pledging to deliver health and well-being for all, to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and to build a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world by leaving no one behind. In 2018, the development of the Global Action Plan and its framework united 12 health and development institutions under a common aim to accelerate progress towards SDG 3: Health and Well-being for all. With only 11 years more to 2030, it is crucial that we accelerate our actions to achieve SDGs.

¹ Get Back on Track to End the Epidemics - <http://www.globalfundadvocatesnetwork.org/campaign/get-back-on-track/>

Raising at least USD 14 billion for the Global Fund Sixth Replenishment will present us with an opportunity towards the acceleration of progress towards SDG 3 and UHC through strengthening systems for health; reinforcing health security; spurring domestic investment of USD 46 billion during the period 2021-2023; tackling inequalities in health including gender and human rights-related barriers to access; and yielding a return on investment of 1:19 with every dollar invested.

Getting back on track to end the epidemics and delivering the broader SDG 3 targets will require all the actors involved, including multilateral and bilateral partners, governments, private sector, private foundations, communities and civil society to raise their game, accelerate innovation, coordinate and collaborate more efficiently and execute programmes more effectively.

An increased and successful Replenishment will provide the Global Fund the ability to scale up its effective responses and get the world back on track to fight the three diseases!

Hence, we want you to be our Hero!

Be a Global Fund Sixth Replenishment Hero and show us you care by increasing your Pledge to the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund from your previous pledge for the Fifth Replenishment!

Be a Hero among other Private Sector and Private Foundations donors; lead and rally the global donor community to increase their pledges to the Global Fund Sixth Replenishment and announce early pledges!

Be a Hero for sustainable development and for the Universal Health Coverage agenda by pledging full support for a successful Sixth Replenishment that enables the Global Fund to scale up its fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria in achieving the SDGs and building resilient and sustainable systems for health to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being and to leave no one behind!

We hope you will continue to be our Hero, Global Fund Champion and Contributor because...

#HeroesGiveMore
#AtLeast14Billion
#StepUpTheFight
#GetBackOnTrack

Global Fund Advocates Network Asia Pacific (GFAN AP)

GFAN AP is a platform of community and civil society advocates for a successfully resourced Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). It supports community and civil society mobilisation in the areas of increased domestic financing for HIV, TB, and malaria; increased donor contributions towards the Global Fund; and ensuring that policy frameworks on health financing take into account community, rights, and gender issues. For more information, please visit, www.gfanasiapacific.org or contact Rachel Ong, Regional Coordinator – Rachel.ong@gfanasiapacific.org or Niluka Perera, Communications and Coordination Officer – Niluka.perera@gfanasiapacific.org

² This letter is supported by the following individuals, community-based and civil society organisations - <https://gfanasiapacific.org/2019/08/heroesgivemore-global-sign-on/>