

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

6th September 2019

H.E. Mr Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Rauðararstigur 25
105 Reykjavik
Iceland

Dear Minister Thórdarson,

Since the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) in 2002, Iceland has contributed **USD 1,170,707** to the Global Fund for the fight against the three diseases. 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 sincerely appreciate the contributions from Iceland to the Global Fund which has saved 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 to the Global Fund have catalysed counterpart domestic resources contributions for health from implementing countries. The support that donors provide to the Global Fund, sends the message that someone care about us, the fight against the three diseases, and improving the lives of those most impacted and vulnerable to them! We are now asking you and Iceland to renew your commitments to this fight and come back as a donor to the Global Fund!

Iceland is a leading country in advancing gender equality and women's rights with its strategy for International Development Cooperation focusing on the promotion of human rights and gender equality, peace and security, as well as the fight against poverty, social injustice, disparity in living conditions and hunger. Iceland places special emphasis on gender equality and environmental sustainability as cross-cutting themes. The Global Fund priorities complement Iceland's efforts to promote gender equality with its investments promoting gender equality and addressing 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, with one third of its investments going to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, and over USD 1 billion per year to Health Systems Strengthening. Global Fund grants support comprehensive sexuality education and programmes to address gender-based violence and also provides funding for education and economic empowerment programmes for adolescent girls and young women, who are disproportionately affected by HIV. Increased investments in the Global Fund will ensure that all these efforts are fast-tracked to achieve human rights, gender equality and social justice including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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 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

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

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 in achieving SDGs.

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, communities, civil society, and the private sector 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 pledging to the Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund!

Be a Hero among other donor countries and lead and rally the global donor community including private sector and private foundations to increase their pledges to the Global Fund Sixth Replenishment!

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 Iceland 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 at rachel.ong@gfanasiapacific.org or Niluka Perera, Communications and Coordination Officer at 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/>