

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

19 August 2019

H.E. Mr Giuseppe Conte  
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri  
Palazzo Chigi, Piazza Colonna 370  
00187 Roma  
Repubblica Italiana

Dear President Conte,

For the Fifth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) in 2016, Repubblica Italiana pledged **EUR 140 million** to the Global Fund for the 2017 – 2019 allocation cycle. 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 since the establishment of the Global Fund in 2002 which has saved over 27 million lives and continues 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 the contributions from Repubblica Italiana have catalysed counterpart domestic resources contributions for health from implementing countries. 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!

On Saint Valentine's Day this year, communities and civil society reached out to 17 Embassies of your country including the embassies of the Repubblica Italiana in People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Gabonese Republic, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Senegal, Ukraine, Republic of Zimbabwe with Saint Valentine's Day cards, love letters and flowers to appreciate your contributions to the Global Fund so far and to urge you to increase your pledge and calling you to #LoveMoreGiveMore.

Repubblica Italiana is the ninth-largest donor country, spending US\$5 billion on official development assistance (ODA) in 2018. This represented 0.24% of the country's gross national income (GNI). In September 2018, the government of Repubblica Italiana reaffirmed its commitment to increasing ODA gradually to 0.7% of GNI by 2030, aiming to reach 0.4% by 2021 and has committed to addressing issues of food security and nutrition, health, and women's' empowerment as part of its ODA. The impact of the Global Fund contributes to the ODA of Italy. Apart from directly contributing to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria, it also promotes gender equality and addresses human rights barriers through its grants, as well as provide support to national health systems across more than 100 countries, including in Africa, to increase health access to all populations, as well as reinforce health security. The Global Fund insists on the meaningful engagement of women throughout the design and implementation of the programmes it funds. The Global Fund also provides funding for education and economic empowerment programmes for adolescent girls and young women, who are disproportionately affected by HIV. Therefore, the Global Fund can be seen as an essential element of the ODA strategies of Repubblica Italiana.

This year, the Global Fund embarks on its Sixth Replenishment process to raise at least US\$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 US\$46 billion annually of which, as the Get Back on Track to End the Epidemics report<sup>1</sup> by the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) estimates, at least US\$16.8 to US\$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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 US\$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 health care systems; reinforcing health security; spurring domestic investment of US\$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 deliver 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<sup>2</sup> 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 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 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 Repubblica Italiana 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 fully funded 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](http://www.gfanasiapacific.org) or contact Rachel Ong, Regional Coordinator – [Rachel.ong@gfanasiapacific.org](mailto:Rachel.ong@gfanasiapacific.org) or Niluka Perera, Communications and Coordination Officer – [Niluka.perera@gfanasiapacific.org](mailto:Niluka.perera@gfanasiapacific.org)

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