



The Rt Hon Liz Truss
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

14 October 2022

Dear Prime Minister Liz Truss,

The Seventh Replenishment Pledging Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) hosted by United States President Joe Biden in New York was held on 21 September 2022 in New York, United States. H.E. Vicky Ford, the United Kingdom (UK) Minister of State for Development in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) reiterated the significant contributions of the UK to fight preventable deadly diseases across the world and emphasised the UK's intent to be a strong supporter and contributor to the Global Fund in line with strengthening the UK's approach to Global Health in its International Development Strategy.

Out of the 1.8 billion young people in the world today, 90% of live in developing countries, and as representatives of adolescents and young people living with, affected by and/or vulnerable to HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria across the world, we warmly welcome the UK's strong commitment towards fighting preventable diseases and saving lives.

This year the [Global Fund Seventh Replenishment Investment Case](#) called for **at least US\$18 billion** to help the world get back on track to end AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics and save 20 million lives between 2024 and 2026. However, at the Seventh Replenishment Pledging Conference, we were only able to raise US\$14.25 billion, falling short of US\$3.75 billion. This potentially leaves money on the table committed by the United States which has pledged up to US\$6 billion, matching every \$2 from other donors with \$1. More importantly, we cannot let our collective efforts to fight HIV, TB and malaria side-track and endanger the lives of adolescents and young people.

According to the [UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022](#), every two minutes in 2021, an adolescent girl or young woman was newly infected with HIV. Every day, 4,000 people – including 1,100 young people (aged 15-24 years) – become infected with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls and young women are at elevated risk of HIV infection, and AIDS-related causes are a leading cause of death among adolescents, girls and women aged 15-49 years. Adolescents and young adults comprise a uniquely important but understudied population in global efforts to end TB, the leading infectious cause of death by a single agent worldwide prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated 850,000 adolescents (10-19 years of age) and an additional one million young adults (20-24 years of age), who are at a developmental phase for acquiring the foundation for a healthy, productive adulthood, become sick with TB each year.¹ Every 75 seconds, a child under five years dies of malaria. In 2020, there were nearly 241 million malaria cases globally which led to an estimated 627,000 deaths. The WHO African region documented 96% of malaria deaths in 2020; and children under the age of four years accounted for 80% of malaria deaths in that region.² Of these deaths, 74% (416,000) were children under five years of age which translates into a daily toll of nearly 750 children under age five dying of malaria.

At least US\$18 billion for the Global Fund will reduce (a) HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in most affected countries by 72%; (b) new TB cases by 27%, from 8.5 million to 6.2 million; and (c) malaria deaths by 62%, from 623,000 to 234,000.

¹ Moscibrodzki, P.; Enane, L.A.; Hoddinott, G.; Brooks, M.B.; Byron, V.; Furin, J.; Seddon, J.A.; Meyersohn, L.; Chiang, S.S. The Impact of Tuberculosis on the Well-Being of Adolescents and Young Adults. *Pathogens* 2021, 10, 1591. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens10121591>

² World Malaria Report 2021

The UK's International Development Strategy launched in May 2022 prioritises providing women and girls with the freedom they need to succeed; unlocking their future potential; educating girls; supporting their empowerment and protecting them against violence; and taking forward the UK's work on Global Health among others. The strategy also highlights using world-class British expertise to support partner countries through providing advice, exchanging lessons and evidence of what works, and building partnerships across government, business and civil society.

The Global Fund remains a time-tested and proven vehicle to achieve the international development priorities of the UK. Since its establishment in 2002, the Global Fund has saved over 50 million lives. The Global Fund prioritises young people especially those who are affected and/or vulnerable to HIV, TB and malaria, including adolescent girls and young women. Through [Her Voice Fund](#), the Global Fund in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, has increased investments to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women by more than five-fold. An innovative matching funds programme launched in 2017 by the Global Fund used US\$55 million to support countries to invest an additional US\$140 million towards programmes aimed at addressing structural barriers, promoting behavioural changes and increasing access to biomedical interventions among adolescent girls and young women. Addressing gender and human rights barriers is an integral part of the ambitious [Global Fund Strategy \(2023–2028\): Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World](#) which sets out how the Global Fund partnership aims to accelerate impact towards the 2030 horizon and contribute to a world free of the burden of AIDS, TB and malaria with better and more equitable health for all, leaving no one behind.

With eight years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world is coming together with increased investments, reinvigorated commitment and political will to make the money work for young people and end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics by 2030.

You can build a safer and secure world for young people to grow and prosper and ensure that future generations do not have to fight HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.

You can ensure that we are armed with resilient and sustainable systems for health to prevent, prepare and respond to future pandemics.

You can guarantee to enable legal environments to end inequalities and end restrictive legal and policy frameworks that unfairly target people living with and/or vulnerable to the three diseases including adolescents and young people.

We call upon the UK to increase its pledge to the Global Fund by 30% from the Sixth Replenishment to £1.8 billion for the Seventh Replenishment. Your leadership to #MeetTheTarget of **at least US\$18 billion for the well-being of adolescents and young people and global health is ever more important at this critical moment!**

As adolescent and young people living with, affected by and/or vulnerable to HIV, TB and malaria, as well as communities and civil society organisations across the world, we call upon the UK to #FightForWhatCount as the lives of adolescents and young people are #OnTheLine because

In Extraordinary Times...

We are #BetterTogether with the #PowerOfMore

In Solidarity from the following organisations,

[Africa Advocacy Foundation](#), [Bangladesh Integrated Human Development Program \(BIHDP\)](#), [Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific \(GFAN AP\)](#), [Hi Voices](#), [I am a Beautiful Story](#), [Impact Santé Afrique \(ISA\)](#), [LetsStopAIDS](#), [The PACT](#), [Speak Up Africa](#), [Global Network of Young People Living with HIV \(Y+\)](#), [Youth Coalition](#), [Youth LEAD](#) and [Youth Voices Count](#)