



# World Tuberculosis Day 2024

**Yes! We Can End TB!**



Global Coalition  
of TB Activists

GFAN ASIA-PACIFIC

## Yes! We can End TB by Tackling Health Inequities to Ensure Health for All

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the world commemorates World Tuberculosis (TB) Day with a resolute spirit, affirming that “Yes, We Can End TB”. The Asia-Pacific region continues to have the highest TB burden. Over 80% of the TB infection and TB-related death happens in low- and middle-income countries. In particular, the Southeast Asia region carries the highest TB burden among all regions with 46% of all new TB infections. More importantly, six countries in the region are among 13 countries where 75% of the missing people with TB reside<sup>1</sup>. As world leaders shift from [commitments made at the 2023 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting](#) to accelerate progress to end TB with global targets for TB diagnosis and treatment to be achieved by 2027, communities and civil society in Asia-Pacific stand firmly behind in partnership to turn words into tangible actions and outcomes.

“Today, as we mark World TB Day, we confront the stark reality of India's high burden of TB. With millions affected each year, India stands at the forefront of this global health crisis. Yet, amidst this challenge, we are resolute in our commitment to the 2025 goal, set by the government of India, of ending TB. With 2024 being an election year and just one year left for our national goal - health needs to be a priority in the election agenda, specifically ending TB. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the global community, bolstered by the support of initiatives through Global Fund, as we strive to eradicate TB from our communities, our country and our world”, adds Blessina Kumar, CEO of [Global Coalition of TB Advocates \(GCTA\)](#) based in India, and GFAN AP Steering Committee Member.

The bold and ambitious [Global Fund Strategy: Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World](#) sets out how the Global Fund partnership aims to accelerate impact towards the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The Global Fund invests more than US\$5 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics and to ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. It provides 76% of all international financing for TB<sup>2</sup> and have invested US\$9.7 billion in programmes to prevent and treat TB<sup>3</sup>, with 1.5 million people exposed to TB receiving preventive therapy, 6.7 million people treated for TB, 118,000 people on treatment for drug-resistant TB and 331,000 TB patients living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy during TB treatment in 2022. In countries where the Global Fund invests, TB deaths have dropped by 36% between 2002 and 2022.<sup>4</sup>

The Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund was hosted by United States President Joe Biden in September 2022 where a record-breaking US\$15.7 billion was raised, marking an increase of 12% in pledges compared to the Sixth Replenishment. However, for the Seventh Replenishment, a major gap of US\$2.3 billion still remains, resulting in reduced financing towards prevention, innovation and investments in community, rights and gender initiatives.

“The Asia-Pacific region stands at a critical juncture in its fight against TB, as communities and the most vulnerable continue to grapple with the social and economic ramifications of this persistent disease. TB stigma continues to be a challenge in Indonesia despite the progresses made in domestic financing and prevention, and it is more important than ever to implement and fund programmes for community-led programmes to reach the hardest to reach populations of key and vulnerable

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<sup>1</sup> [An Asia-Pacific Exchange on the Role of Community-Led Monitoring in TB programming](#), Oct 2023.

<sup>2</sup> As of June 2023.

<sup>3</sup> As of March 2024.

<sup>4</sup> [The Global Fund Website: Tuberculosis](#)



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communities. Most importantly, to be able to get back on track to turn the tide against the TB epidemic, we need high level leadership and investments in proven mechanisms such as the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria \(Global Fund\)](#) which is one of the largest, most transparent and accountable funding health institutions for the three diseases,” said Daniel Marguari, Executive Director of [Yayasan Spiritia](#) in Indonesia.

GCTA and GFAN AP with communities living with, affected by and/or vulnerable to TB in Asia-Pacific call upon all heads of states to step up their fight and truly commit to ending TB as an epidemic through sustainable and increased domestic and international resources for TB responses to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), reiterating political commitment and ensuring that no one is left behind.

There are only 18 months before the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund and to reach the global 2030 goals - the time is NOW for the global community to come together and advocate for a fully resourced Global Fund with just six years left to achieve the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), the world simply cannot miss the golden opportunity to end TB as an epidemic. As communities and civil society living with, affected by and/or vulnerable to HIV, TB and malaria, we stand with the national governments and donors to ensure health remains a global agenda and believe that **“Yes, We can End TB”, but with the right investments, right political will and commitment!**

[Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific \(GFAN AP\)](#) is a platform of community and civil society advocates for a fully funded Global Fund. It supports community and civil society mobilisation in the areas of increased domestic financing for HIV, TB and malaria responses; increased donor contributions towards the Global Fund; and ensuring that policy frameworks on health financing take into account community, rights and gender issues.



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[Global Coalition of TB Advocates \(GCTA\)](#) is a global platform that bridges the gap between civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the tuberculosis (TB) response. The mission of GCTA is to ensure accountability in global TB goals through coalition building, community-led monitoring, advocacy and capacity building.