



**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

# Reflecting on 2023

Dear colleagues,

As we reflect on the past year, it fills me with immense pride and gratitude to share the accomplishments and collaborations of the Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific (GFAN AP). Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the global landscape, the dedication and resilience of the GFAN AP community have enabled us to continue our vital work in supporting the coordination, convening and mobilization of community and civil society organisations to continue the advocacy work related to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) that ensures access to quality and equitable healthcare as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all people – living with, vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria.

Throughout 2023, GFAN AP has remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting community advocacy and leadership witnessed through the mini-campaign for #TheUHCThatWeNeed, youth-based advocacy activities, collaborations with GFAN Africa on #MeetTheTarget campaign, and ensuring that the importance of the Global Fund and its contributions to the global health landscape and more importantly to communities remained centre-stage in its work. In addition, the governance of GFAN AP underwent a transformation which is anticipated to be finalised in Q2 of 2024 will bring more diverse representation and voices to the table representative of the communities that it seeks to serve.

As we embark on the journey for the upcoming Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund, GFAN AP recognises that none of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible team and partners in advancing the mission and vision of GFAN AP, and I am continually inspired by the passion and expertise that every supporter brings to the table, and grateful to work alongside committed individuals in the Asia-Pacific.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all partners of our GFAN AP community and beyond for your hard work and unwavering commitment to ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics. Together, we have accomplished amazing work, and I look forward to the continued impact we will make in the year ahead.

With gratitude from the GFAN AP Steering Committee,



**Blessina Kumar**  
CEO  
Global Coalition of TB Activists  
India



**Masaki Inaba**  
Programme Director, Global Health  
Africa Japan Forum  
Japan



**Don Baxter**  
Australia

# Foreword

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with immense honour that I share with you the work of GFAN AP accomplished through the GFAN AP team, supporters and partners throughout 2023. In this report, you'll see our national and regional partners are the leading force to our mission of ensuring that all individuals in the Asia-Pacific region affected by HIV, TB and malaria can access quality and equitable healthcare as part of UHC. This mission serves as our guiding light, driving us forward even in the face of adversity.

We seek to achieve our mission by supporting the coordination, convening and mobilisation of community and civil society organisations for a fully resourced Global Fund that ensure access to quality healthcare for all. Through strategic partnerships, advocacy campaigns, and evidence-based communication, we are working to amplify the voices of those most affected by these epidemics and drive meaningful policy change at the local, regional and global levels.

As we reflect on our strategies and actions, we are proud of the progress we have made and the impact we have achieved. From continuing to rally for increased investments to the Global Fund to strengthening advocacy efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, GFAN AP continues to reflect on strengthening its own governance structures to best suit the diversity of voices and the communities it aims to serve. Through inclusive and diverse partnerships, we support partners in advancing rights-based and gender-transformative health policies and programmes.

Looking ahead, our commitment to our mission will see GFAN AP continue to strive for increased investments in health and to the Global Fund, sustained domestic financing for UHC and strengthened advocacy efforts in the Asia-Pacific region. As we look ahead in 2024 and begin preparations towards the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund in 2025, we hope to continue our work alongside each and every one of you.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every partner for your unfaltering support, tenacity and belief in the mission of GFAN AP. Together, we are making a difference.

With warm regards,

Rachel Ong  
Regional Coordinator  
Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific

# Executive Summary

In 2023, GFAN AP actively participated in and collaborated on various global and regional initiatives and collaborations which showcased strong commitment to advocacy and partnership, following the GFAN family meeting held in December 2022 which brought GFAN, GFAN Africa and GFAN AP together to review its partnership and work conducted for the Seventh Replenishment and share workplans for the coming year. This resulted in initial discussions on continuing the #MeetTheTargetCampaign and #TheUHCThatWeStillNeed through the year with GFAN Africa with the High-Level Meetings (HLMs) on TB and UHC.

On International Women's Day, a statement was released highlighting the important contributions the Global Fund played in advancing the rights of women and advocating for gender transformative programmes and policies at the country level.

In April, GFAN AP participated in the annual Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) meeting co-organised with GFAN Africa brought together community and civil society stakeholders to discuss resource mobilisation for the Global Fund and reflected on the outcomes of the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund.

From the meeting, a group of advocates got together to strategize around high-level advocacy efforts around the G7, which resulted in an open letter to G7 leaders urging continued support for global health initiatives and the pivotal role that the Global Fund plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health led by GFAN AP.

At the 49<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam in May, GFAN AP supported the co-organising of a private sector side event with the Global Fund and Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI) which highlighted the important role of the private sector and philanthropists in addressing global health challenges and demonstrating solidarity and the power of the Global Fund partnership.

GFAN AP also supported youth mobilisation through initiatives such as the #GenEndIt Youth Mobilisation Fund started up by UNAIDS, which supported youth-led projects addressing global health challenges. A statement was also released for International Youth Day with the regional key population networks which called on donors to ensure their commitments to investing in health are met for a healthier, greener and better world for young people.

A statement on World Mental Health Day was also released in conjunction with other regional organisations working on mental health in the Asia-Pacific region which highlighted the 2023 – 2028 Global Fund Strategy that recognised the need for providing quality, people-centred diagnosis, treatment and care, to improve well-being and mental healthcare for people living with and or affected by HIV, TB and malaria.

Through the collaboration with GFAN Africa on #MeetTheTarget campaign, a refresh launch was held released a statement collectively on #TheUHCThatWeNeed.

On World AIDS, Day, GFAN AP published a joint statement with the regional key population networks emphasising community-led and key population-led responses and the importance of adequate funding for HIV programmes through the Global Fund. GFAN AP also collaborated with the Delhi Network of People Living with HIV to raise the awareness of ARV stockouts in India.

In December, GFAN AP worked in partnership with the Seven Alliance partners to co-organise a hybrid webinar in Bangkok, Thailand around UHC Day with an emphasis on the importance of community-led monitoring (CLM)

Lastly, GFAN AP expressed its appreciation to governments throughout the year, including Ireland and Luxembourg for their additional contributions to the Global Fund, highlighting the impact of collective action in addressing global health challenges.

Through these diverse initiatives and partnerships, GFAN AP continues to foster collaborations with communities and civil society in the Asia-Pacific region to champion equal access to healthcare and the eradication of HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics by the year 2030. By joining forces with various organisations and stakeholders, GFAN AP continues to pave the way towards a future where everyone can lead healthy lives free from the burden of these epidemics.

As we look towards 2024, GFAN AP aims to continue its collective efforts through strengthened governance and operational policies, information sharing and joint strategizing towards the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund with new partners and through more strategic partnerships.

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# Acronyms List

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>ACT! AP</b>     | Activists' Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific             |
| <b>APN+</b>        | Asia Pacific People Living with HIV                 |
| <b>APTN</b>        | Asia Pacific Transgender Network                    |
| <b>BMGF</b>        | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation                   |
| <b>CLM</b>         | community-led monitoring                            |
| <b>CS4ME</b>       | Civil Society for Malaria Elimination               |
| <b>CRG</b>         | community, rights and gender                        |
| <b>CSEM</b>        | Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030      |
| <b>DRM</b>         | Domestic Resource Mobilisation                      |
| <b>GFAN</b>        | Global Fund Advocates Network                       |
| <b>GFANAP</b>      | Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific          |
| <b>Global Fund</b> | Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria |
| <b>HLM</b>         | High-Level Meeting                                  |
| <b>ISA</b>         | Impact Santé Afrique                                |
| <b>JLA</b>         | Joint Learning Agenda                               |
| <b>KPs</b>         | Key Populations                                     |
| <b>NAPUD</b>       | Network of Asian People who Use Drugs               |
| <b>NVF</b>         | New Venture Fund                                    |
| <b>ODA</b>         | Official Development Assistance                     |
| <b>PPPR</b>        | Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response      |
| <b>RAME</b>        | Réseau Accès aux Médicaments                        |
| <b>SCDI</b>        | Supporting Community Development Initiatives        |
| <b>SDGs</b>        | Sustainable Development Goals                       |
| <b>TB</b>          | Tuberculosis  |
| <b>UNGA</b>        | United Nations General Assembly                     |
| <b>UHC</b>         | Universal Health Coverage                           |
| <b>YVC</b>         | Youth Voices Count                                  |

# Highlights in 2024

## 1. International Women's Day

On International Women's Day 2023 on 8 March, GFAN AP joined the global call to action through our social media platforms with a powerful message: Let's always remember to #EmbraceEquity! We stand with the Global Fund in advocating for gender equity, recognizing that only through structural transformations can we truly end the spread of HIV, TB and malaria. Together we embrace the #PowerOfMore and believe that we are #BetterTogether in creating a world where everyone, regardless of gender, has equal access to health and opportunities. A [short clip](#) highlighting the important role that the Global Fund plays in supporting efforts to support gender equity was also posted on our social media channels.



## 2. An Asia-Pacific Dialogue Towards People-Centred, Equitable, Gender-Just and Rights-Affirmative 2023 UN High-Level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage, Pandemic Preparedness and Tuberculosis



GFAN AP attended the [dialogue](#) organised jointly by APCASO, Stop TB Partnership and the Embassy of the Government of France in Indonesia which convened Asia-Pacific community and civil society and allies to plan and prepare for strategic country- and regional-level engagement with the three key HLMs scheduled in 2023 on UHC, the Pandemic Summit and TB.

The convening brought together technical partners, government agencies as well as communities and civil society to facilitate the sharing of key information, developments, concerns and points for intervention on the HLMs on UHC, the Pandemic Summit and TB and developed a regional engagement roadmap and discussed country-level plans for mobilisation and advocacy.

From this meeting, [an Asia-Pacific communities and civil society statement of positions on the three HLMs](#) called for resilient, sustainable integrated and fully resourced systems for health was collectively crafted for advocacy actions and mobilisations as well as in country-level dialogue processes.





### 3. New Venture Fund Grantees Meeting

Ahead of the annual GFAN Meeting (see below), the New Venture Fund (NVF) supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) held a grantees meeting for discussions on the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund to work together better, faster and stronger together to #FightForWhatCounts. This meeting also discussed potential plans for the phase IV of funding for NVF grantees, of which GFAN AP is a recipient of in previous phases.



### 4. GFAN Annual Meeting

The [2023 Annual GFAN Meeting](#) was convened in Nairobi, Kenya over three days from 18-20 April in a hybrid format and brought together approximately 75 people from around the world in person, and with 20 other participating virtually for parts of the meeting. The diverse array of stakeholders, predominantly from the civil society sector have a shared focus on Global Fund resource mobilisation and advocacy.



The event commenced with a tribute to Jacqueline Wittebrood and other Global Fund advocates and friends who have passed away, underscoring the deep commitment and sense of community among attendees.

Presentations were provided by the Global Fund Secretariat on the outcomes, and the updates on following the Seventh Replenishment, including the analysis of the efforts and outcomes of the Seventh Replenishment; the conversion of donor pledges into tangible disbursements; as well as upcoming timelines and key dates leading up to the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund.

Robust discussions were also held around Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) spanning 2023 - 2025, and attention was directed towards the challenges and opportunities for short- and long-term resource mobilisation campaigns, alongside broader issues impacting financing for across all three disease responses. The Global Fund also acknowledged and emphasised the important role of communities and civil society advocacy in supporting the efforts of Global Fund resourcing and the need for further enhancing community engagement in disease response initiatives.

Plenary sessions formed the cornerstone of most of the meeting, featuring presentations and panel discussions that fostered dialogue among participants.



Extensive time was also dedicated to addressing questions and insights from both in-person and virtual attendees. Additionally, group work sessions facilitated discussions on key advocacy opportunities throughout 2023, as well as strategies for enhancing domestic resources and sustainable funding for advocacy efforts of communities and civil society actors.

A virtual discussion was also held with Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund who delivered informal remarks and thanked communities and civil society advocates for their hard work and support leading up to the Seventh Replenishment Pledging Conference and beyond.



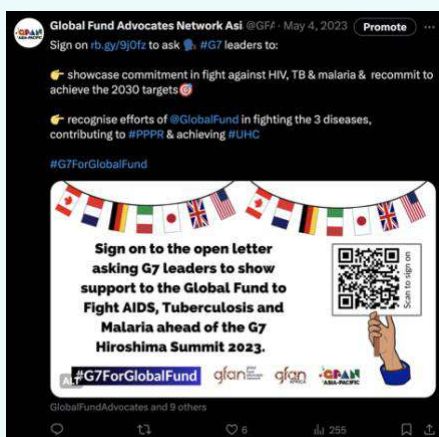
The meeting was attended by GFAN AP staff and the Regional Coordinator, Rachel Ong spoke in a panel discussion and highlighted the need for better coordination and alignment of communities and civil society actors within the Global Fund resource mobilisation landscape, which included communities and civil society representatives on the Global Fund Board, the broader GFAN advocates on Global Fund resource mobilisation and within regions and across regions.



Field visits were also organised by GFAN Africa (which is hosted by WACI Health) which provided participants with first-hand insights into the impact of Global Fund-supported projects and health services in Nairobi, reinforcing the importance of collaborative action in advancing global health goals.

## 5. Open Letter to G7 Leaders

A side discussion with G7 country advocates at the margins of the GFAN Annual Meeting resulted in an [open letter to G7 leaders](#), which was [signed by 335 individuals](#) across the globe. The letter expressed appreciation for the support and longstanding partnership of the G7 countries with the Global Fund. As the G7 was chaired by Japan in 2023, this initiative was led by GFAN AP with support by GFAN and GFAN Africa. The letter highlighted the pivotal role of the G7 in elevating global health issues, dating back to the introduction of infectious diseases on the G7 Summit Agenda held in 2000 which was also chaired by Japan. This led to the establishment of the Global Fund in 2002.



With the Hiroshima Summit held in May shortly after the GFAN Annual Meeting, the letter emphasised the opportunity for Japan to demonstrate leadership and commitment in advancing efforts to combat these diseases and strengthen health systems. The letter also underscored the significant impact of the investments made through the Global Fund by donors, which have saved over 50 million lives since its inception and the crucial role that these investments have made in strengthening health systems, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#).

Against the backdrop of mounting global challenges, including health crises, economic insecurity, and climate change, the letter urged G7 leaders to reaffirm their commitment towards ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics by 2030 and to recognise the critical contributions of the Global Fund in achieving this goal. The letter further called for language in the G7 Leaders Communiqué that explicitly acknowledges the efforts of the Global Fund in fighting these deadly diseases, strengthening health systems, and advancing pandemic preparedness and lending towards the achievement of UHC.

The final [G7 Leaders Communiqué](#) paragraph 34 “..noted the historic outcome of the Global Fund’s 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment and welcome financial support from the G7 and further countries towards ending the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.”

## 6. High Level Reception on the Role of the Private Sector and Philanthropists

A [high-level reception](#) was held at the margins of the 48<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam on the 9 May 2023. This event organised by the Global Fund Secretariat was co-organised with input from SCDI and GFAN AP. US\$3 million pledge made by Vietnamese philanthropist Ms Le Nu Thuy Duong at the Seventh Replenishment Pledging Conference of the Global Fund in 2022, and her US\$3 million pledge was further bolstered by matching funds from the BMGF which resulted in a US\$9 million total commitment to the Global Fund.



This high-level reception focused on the role of the private sector and philanthropy in solving global health challenges and served as a pivotal platform for leaders and stakeholders, including community and civil society leaders to converge. Peter Sands underscored the remarkable progress witness in the fight of Vietnam against malaria, emphasising the urgent need to accelerate efforts

globally. The event was also attended by Dr. Trần Văn Thuấn, Vice Minister of Health, highlighted Vietnam's significant investments of over \$650 million in combating HIV, TB, and malaria since 2004, stressing the critical importance of fortifying health systems post-COVID-19. Kieran Daly from BMFG also stressed the important role of philanthropy and foundations in the global health landscape.

The event resonated with personal narratives, as Dr Khuat Thi Hai Oanh, Executive Director of SCDI, emphasised the human toll of HIV and the need for collective action to save lives.

Tung Doan, Executive Director of Lighthouse Social Enterprise shared a poignant account of how Global Fund investments not only save lives but also empower individuals by providing essential HIV prevention and psychosocial services.



Henry Nguyen, Chairman of Phoenix Holdings, encapsulated the spirit of global citizenship, emphasising the transformative potential of collective contributions and the ripple effect they create, reaffirming a shared commitment to tackling global health challenges head-on.



## 7. #GenEndIt Youth Mobilisation Fund

GFAN AP engaged with the #GenEndIt Youth Mobilisation Fund through the participation of Anukriti Singh, GFAN AP Communications and Media Officer as a Steering Committee Member, which set up the criteria and assessed applications for funding to ensure that resources were directed towards impactful youth-driven projects addressing global health challenges.

The #GenEndIt Youth Mobilisation Fund was created with the support by UNAIDS at the 2022 International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada and was set up to support youth-led organisations across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States by providing small grants of up to US\$1,000.

From the Asia-Pacific region, Karun Lama from Youth Voices Count (YVC) and the Anukriti showcased the progress of their campaigning efforts in India during a comprehensive presentation to all #GendEndIt partners, including representatives from organisations such as UNAIDS, Elizabeth Taylor Foundation, Charlize Theron Foundation, Elton John Foundation, and the Robert Carr Network Fund. Their presentation highlighted the strides made in youth mobilisation and advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region and underscored the collaborative spirit driving collective action towards ending the epidemics of HIV, TB and malaria.

## 8. Launch of #MeetTheTarget

A [two-day virtual event was co-organised by the Civil Society for Malaria Elimination \(CS4ME\), GFAN Africa and GFAN AP on the 26 & 27 July](#). Key objectives of the meeting included the launch of the revamped #MeetTheTarget campaign; gathering inputs for the cross-regional statement #TheUHCThatWeNeed; information sharing on the health-related HLMs with a focus on the HLM on UHC; and reflections on domestic resource mobilisation (DRM) efforts and support by the Global Fund. The 2-part webinar aimed to foster collaborations and strategic planning across Africa and Asia-Pacific communities and civil society partners to advance health goals related to the Global Fund advocacy efforts. The 2-day event was held in both English and French and was attended by approximately 50 participants.

Day one of the virtual event commenced with an overview from Rosemary Mburu, Executive Director of WACI Health and Rachel Ong, followed by discussions led by Zeinabou Idé from CS4ME, Anukriti Singh from GFAN AP and Laura Philidor (Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) for UHC2030). Presentations and conversations centred around the objectives of the revamped #MeetTheTarget campaign, challenges facing civil society advocates, updates around the processes and discussions of the HLMs on TB and UHC, and the evolving advocacy landscape. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, sharing insights and strategies to address the complex challenges hindering progress in global health and resource mobilisation efforts.



The event also featured panel discussions moderated by Rosemary with contributions from Gavin Reid from the Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) division of the Global Fund. Ida Savadogo from Réseau Accès aux Médicaments (RAME). Discussions covered the current challenges in responding to HIV, TB and malaria, the importance of community engagement and leadership in achieving UHC and strategies to overcome barriers in accessing quality health services. The first day underscored the urgent need for coordinated action, increased investments in health systems and strengthened advocacy efforts to address the persistent challenges facing global health, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommandations VIH**

- ❖ Se concentrer sur les **droits humains des populations clés** - en particulier les droits à la santé, à la non-discrimination, à l'accès à l'information et à une participation égale et effective aux affaires publiques et politiques - en veillant à ce qu'ils soient au cœur de la riposte mondiale au VIH
- ❖ **Intensifier les réponses basées sur la communauté et dirigées par elle** : eg: études COEs
- ❖ **Accroître les investissements pour lever les obstacles liés aux droits de l'homme et à l'égalité des sexes** qui empêchent trop souvent les gens d'accéder aux services ou de poursuivre leur traitement ; Eg: Guide de sûreté et sécurité
- ❖ **Soutien aux Adolescentes et jeunes femmes dans les pays fortement touchés par le VIH**; Eg: Voix Essentiels

On Day two of the webinar, participants were greeted with introductory remarks from Rachel Ong, Rosemary Mburu and Olivia Ngou, Executive Director of Impact Santé Afrique (ISA) which set the stage for discussions to follow; and Niluka Perera from GFAN AP provided a recap of day one discussions. Updates were shared around impactful initiatives such as the Joint Learning Agenda (JLA) was shared by Sonia Haytou from ISA.

The JLA programme emphasizes the empowerment of local CSOs on health financing and UHC, spanning cross 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and underscore the critical role of civil society in advocating for effective health financing policies and implementation.

Laura Philidor and Halima Cooper-Stubbs presented insights on the UHC Zero Draft and revealed both progress made and highlighted gaps in the political declaration. While some revisions were made based on civil society feedback, notable issues such as specific spending targets and addressing community health



workers still require attention. Akiko Mera, Executive Director of Médecins du Monde in Japan and member of CSEM provided perspectives on the Asia-Pacific region on the UHC declaration and highlighted the importance of addressing access issue, including those related to digital health and climate health crises.

Niluka then provided an outline of key asks from communities and civil society for the political declarations of the three HLMs based on discussions

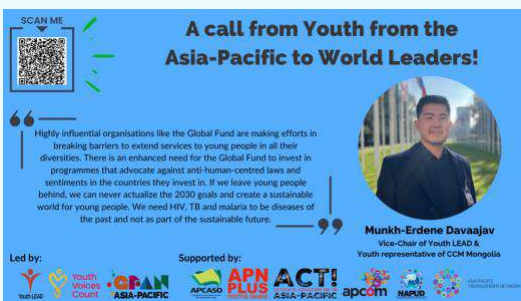
as well as statements from communities and civil society. The day concluded with a session facilitated by Rachel and Zeinabou to gather priorities and concerns from participants for a cross-regional position paper on #TheUHCThatWeNeed (see [section](#) below).

## 9. GFAN Africa Regional Call

GFAN Africa organised their regional meeting virtually on 31 July with communities and civil society members to provide updates and seek inputs while coordinating synergies and efforts for advocacy work. GFAN AP joined in the call to provide updates and plans or the collaborative #MeetTheTarget campaign and #TheUHCThatWeNeed statement.



## 10. International Youth Day



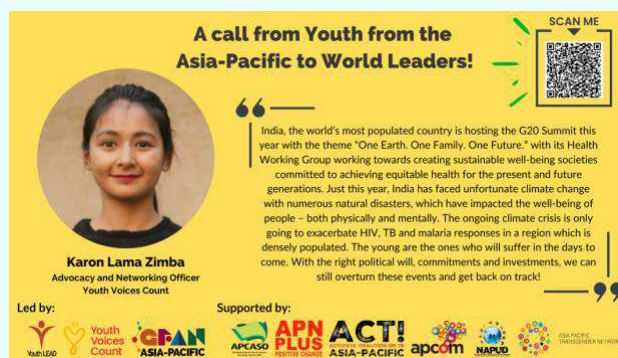
GFAN AP led a [joint statement](#) in collaboration with Youth LEAD and YVC for International Youth Day aligned with the theme “Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World”. The was supported by APCASO, Asia Pacific People Living with HIV (APN+), Activists’ Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific (ACT! AP), APCOM, Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD) and Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) and highlighted the need for urgent and bold action to address pressing global challenges. With 2030 marking the deadline for achieving the

SDGs, young people, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region would be acutely affected if the goals are not achieved. The Asia-Pacific region is home to 60% of the world’s youth and continues to grapple with ensuring equal and quality access to healthcare and services to all communities, including key populations (KPs).

Against the backdrop of the then upcoming three health related HLMs, young leaders in the Asia-Pacific called for renewed commitments to end epidemics and ensure equitable access to healthcare. Multilateral health financing mechanisms such as the Global Fund, including increased domestic resources for health and Official Development Assistance (ODA) are essential to achieving UHC and building resilient health systems.

Despite progress made by institutions such as the Global Fund, which has saved over 50 million lives since its inception, there remains a gap of US\$2.7 billion in resource needs from its Seventh Replenishment which will particularly impacts and undermine efforts to combat HIV, TB and malaria among vulnerable populations such as young people.

With the clock ticking to 2030, it is imperative for world leaders to put their money where their mouth is and prioritise investments in health, empower youth leadership, and strengthen community and civic spaces to ensure a healthier, greener and more equitable future as their investments are for the leaders of tomorrow.



## 11. #TheUHCThatWeNeed



In preparation for the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) featured three health-related UN HLMs on UHC, TB and Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) – CS4ME, GFAN Africa and GFAN AP published a [statement](#) that was developed from the [webinar held on the #MeetTheTarget launch](#), in conjunction a social media graphics and a toolkit were also developed and shared widely for use.

Despite the global commitments made towards these goals, the world remains far from delivering on its promises, particularly as the economic impacts from COVID-19 continue to strain health systems and economies. The lack of sustained domestic investments in health responses, coupled with significant out-of-pocket expenditure in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), poses significant barriers to achieving comprehensive UHC and addressing the rights of all individuals to the highest attainable standard of health.

The messaging highlights that global health investment mechanisms such as the Global Fund play a vital role in ending existing epidemics and strengthening health systems to prevent future pandemics. However, there remains a considerable gap in funding, threatening the progress made in combating these diseases and achieving UHC for all.

The statement emphasises the importance of putting vulnerable groups, marginalised communities, and key populations at the centre of global health strategies, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. It calls for increased domestic resource mobilisation, global public investments in LMIC health responses, and protection of human rights, particularly for those affected by HIV, TB, and malaria. Furthermore, the statement underscores the critical role of community-based and led responses, community health workers (CHWs), and multilateral health institutions in achieving comprehensive UHC and ending epidemics.



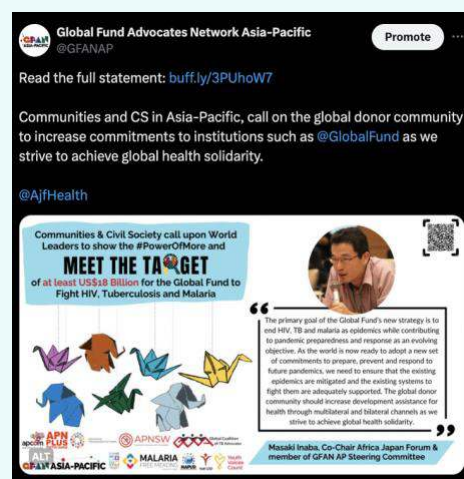
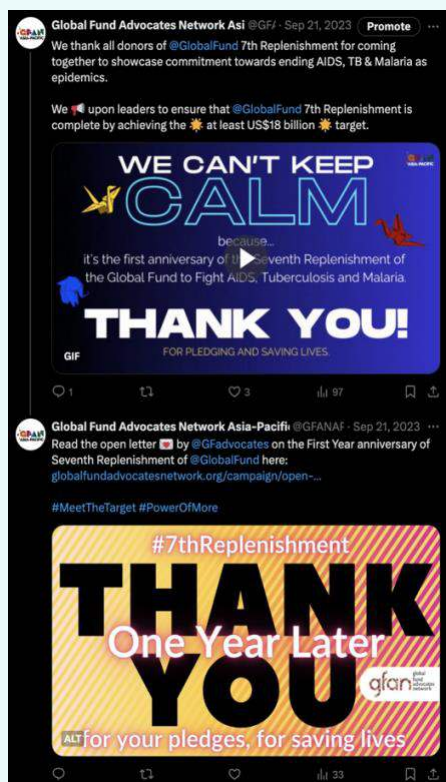
As communities and civil society organisations living with and affected by HIV, TB, and malaria, the statement urges heads of governments to rally political will and commitment towards implementing the obligations outlined in the upcoming Political Declarations. It calls for increased investment in community systems for health, removal of legal and policy barriers hindering access to essential health services, and delivery on commitments to end epidemics. Additionally, it emphasises the need for sustained civic society spaces to enable proactive advocacy and engagement for people-centred, rights-focused, and gender-transformative health responses.

## 12. One-Year Anniversary of the Seventh Replenishment

The Global Fund held its Seventh Replenishment Pledging Conference a year ago in 2022, raising over US\$14.25 billion for the allocation period 2023 – 2025. Despite this significant achievement, it fell short of the at least US\$18 billion target set in the Investment Case. Communities living with, affected by, and/or vulnerable to HIV, TB, and malaria express gratitude to all donors involved but emphasise the critical importance of meeting the funding target to save lives, avert new infections, and bring hope towards ending these diseases as epidemics.

The Global Fund, with its proven track record, has saved over 59 million lives since its inception in 2002 and disbursed more than US\$60.4 billion across more than 120 countries. Investments in community systems and community-led initiatives have been pivotal in responding to HIV, TB, and malaria, with significant impacts on antiretroviral treatment, TB treatment, and distribution of mosquito nets. However, the funding gap of US\$2.3 billion threatens to impede progress and hinder the achievement of global targets and UHC that leaves no one behind.

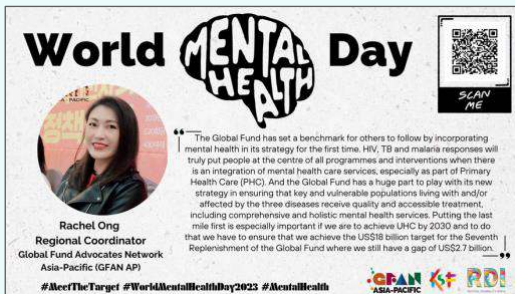
Challenges such as flatlining development assistance for health, the shrinking fiscal space post-COVID-19, geopolitical tensions, growing health needs, and climate change exacerbate the situation. Amidst these challenges, renewed global commitments are needed to end TB, achieve UHC and prepare for future pandemics. The Global Fund Partnership must harness collective efforts and momentum to bring the fight against these diseases back on track, utilising strategies like the #PowerOfMore to #FightForWhatCounts. Leaders are urged to reaffirm their commitment to ending these diseases as epidemics and ensuring the completion of the Seventh Replenishment to achieve the funding target.



### 13. World Mental Health Day 2023

The theme for 2023 underscores the importance of mental health as a universal human right, particularly significant amidst today's turbulent global landscape of geopolitical tensions, conflicts, climate change, and pandemics. Keeping this in mind GFAN AP, along with Keshav Suri Foundation and Revival Disability India published a [statement](#) highlighting key and vulnerable populations affected by TB, and malaria face significant mental health challenges due to stigma, discrimination, lack of support, financial burdens, and other factors. Addressing mental health is crucial for achieving UHC and equitable responses to TB and HIV, as emphasised in the recent HLMs.

Recognizing the multidimensional relationship between mental health and diseases like TB and HIV, recent political declarations have stressed the importance of integrated mental health services. These declarations highlight the prevalence of mental health disorders among affected populations and the need for comprehensive support to ensure that no one is left behind. Additionally, funding gaps in mental health services pose significant challenges, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, necessitating increased investment and support.

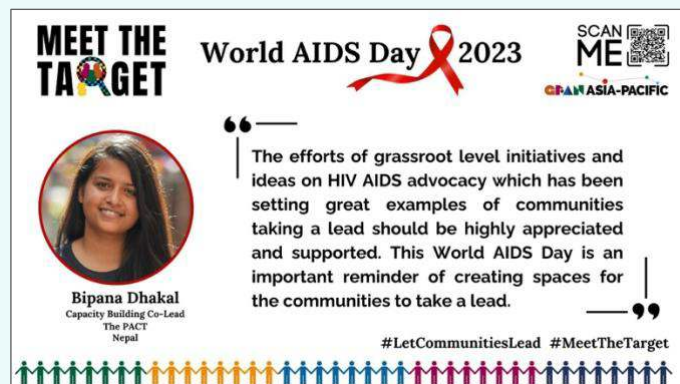


The Global Fund plays a pivotal role in promoting mental health within its strategy, recognizing the need for holistic care for affected populations. Integrating mental health services into existing health programs is crucial for putting people at the centre of interventions and achieving UHC by 2030. And the statement reiterates the important and urgent need for donors to meet the target of at least US\$18 billion for the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment to address mental health needs effectively.

### 14. World AIDS Day

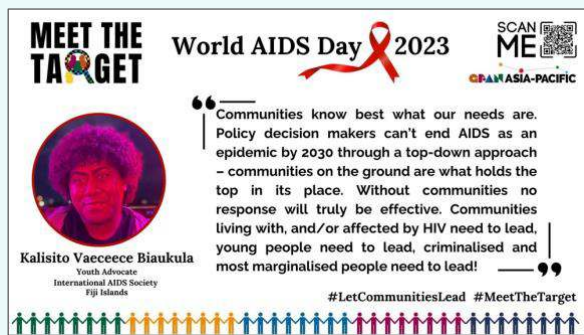
GFAN AP published a statement, '[GFAN Asia-Pacific Demands a Truly Key Populations- and Community-led Response to End AIDS as an Epidemic](#)' on World AIDS Day 2023. The statement featured quotes from Bipana Dhakal, Capacity Building Lead from The PACT, Kalisito Biaukula, Youth Advocate from Fiji and Mohaimunul Raqib, Founder of Bangladesh Integrated Human Development Program.

The statement highlighted, that in 2022, despite advancements, AIDS claimed 630,000 lives globally, with 9.2 million people not receiving treatment for HIV. The Asia-Pacific region saw a significant rise in HIV cases, accounting for 23% of new infections. With World AIDS Day 2023 emphasising community leadership and the 2024 International AIDS Conference focusing on people-centric approaches, urgent action is needed to meet 2030 targets.





Community voices stress the importance of grassroots initiatives in HIV advocacy, emphasising the need for



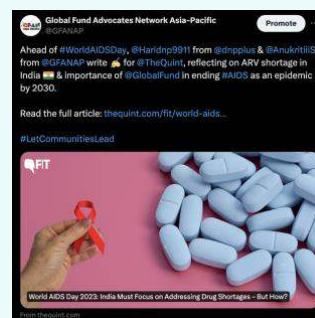
community-led responses. However, inadequate funding hampers progress, with a growing gap in HIV program financing globally. Moreover, criminalising laws hinder prevention and treatment efforts, disproportionately affecting key populations. Communities, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas, are essential in the fight against AIDS. Yet, they often lack adequate representation and support. Strengthening community health workers and ensuring meaningful community engagement are critical steps toward a more effective response.

Challenges such as conflict, economic downturns, and climate change complicate efforts, but with increased resources, policy reform, and inclusive partnerships, progress is possible. Prioritising mechanisms like the Global Fund and repealing discriminatory laws are essential steps in ending AIDS as an epidemic by 2030.

In Collaboration with the Delhi Network of People Living with HIV (DNP+), GFAN AP wrote an opinion piece in an Indian media platform - The Quint. The article analysed and commented on the frequent ARV stock outs that have occurred in India.

Hari Shankar (DNP+) gives us the ground perspective; he was one of the organisers of the mass protest. They organised a sit in at the NACO office which lasted for 49 days. Some of the solutions presented were to support multilateral institutions such as the Global Fund, create toll free numbers and increase participation of community and civil society members in decision making process.

With the support of GFAN AP, a second article was also published in The Quint highlighting a story of a young sero-discordant who met during the 2016 International AIDS Conference in South Africa, doing advocacy work in IAS. The couple in the story stated that the Global Fund has been a major life saver, with its interventions they have been able to have access to treatment and preventive methods.



## 15. #MeetTheTarget for #TheUHCThatWeNeed

For UHC Day, CS4ME, GFAN AP, and the Seven Alliance collaborated on a statement “[Health for all: Time for Action. Put the Last Mile First as We Strive to Achieve UHC by 2030](#)”.

In September 2023, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by endorsing the second United Nations (UN) Political Declaration on UHC. Despite progress, the urgent need to prioritise marginalised communities affected by HIV, TB, and malaria is underscored by the declaration, which aims to leave no one behind. However, challenges such as widening health inequities and inadequate funding for essential health services persist, necessitating immediate action. The 2023 UHC Political Declaration acknowledges the importance of integrated, person-centred care and emphasises the need for global cooperation to achieve health objectives. Yet, over half of the global population lacks access to essential health services, with financial hardships pushing billions into poverty while seeking basic healthcare. This highlights the critical need to prioritise key and vulnerable populations affected by HIV, TB, and malaria, especially in the face of escalating human rights violations and geopolitical tensions. The statement calls for action to bridge the funding gaps and ensure equitable access to healthcare, and that national governments must repeal laws that criminalise KPs and increase DRM for health. Donor countries should also boost allocations for ODA and fully fund multilateral health financing mechanisms like the Global Fund. Prioritising the "last mile" first is crucial to achieving UHC that leaves no one behind by 2030.

On 16 December, GFAN AP, the Seven Alliance, and GFAN Africa collaborated on a [hybrid webinar](#) in Bangkok. This event focused on UHC and its implications for combating HIV, TB, and malaria, and brought together diverse stakeholders both physically and virtually. The discussions, aligned with the UN Political Declaration on UHC, emphasized the right to health and ambitious goals for achieving UHC by 2030. Marijke Wijnroks, Head of Strategic Investment and Impact Division at the Global Fund delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of community-led responses and UHC in ending health inequalities.

A key feature of the event was the interactive dialogue between key population representatives, policymakers, and community members from HIV, malaria and TB communities. This inclusive approach allowed diverse voices to shape health policies, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to address persistent challenges in achieving UHC. Funding gaps, geopolitical tensions, and threats to human rights underscored the urgency for a unified global response. The event served as a platform for highlighting the critical role of increased investments and multilateral collaboration in addressing these challenges.



The hybrid format of the event facilitated broad participation, with attendees from the Second Regional Workshop on Community-Led Monitoring joining in person and online participants from Asia-Pacific and beyond. Interpretation services in multiple languages ensured inclusivity. The success of the event demonstrated the power of bringing together diverse voices to drive change on a global scale. Claudia Ahumada from the Global Fund shared lessons learned from past replenishment efforts and outlined plans for the Eighth Replenishment campaign, emphasizing the importance of community engagement in advocacy and resource mobilization.

In closing remarks, Dr Justin Koonin highlighted the issue of healthcare affordability, particularly for the millions living in poverty worldwide. The event concluded with a shared vision for a healthier and more equitable world, reaffirming the commitment to UHC, community-led responses, and addressing funding gaps. It left a lasting impact on the global health advocacy landscape, paving the way for collaborative action towards achieving UHC and ending HIV, TB, and malaria by 2030.

## **16. Strengthening GFAN AP Governance and Partnerships**

GFAN AP started a process to strengthen its governance in mid-june and hired independent consultant, Ms Ruth Morgan Thomas to conduct an evaluation and provide recommendations for a strengthened governance model for GFAN AP. The [evaluation and recommendations](#) were finalised in December with a new Terms of Reference developed to be endorsed by the GFAN AP SC for an open call for applications scheduled in January 2024.

GFAN AP also moved to a new financial host, the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) which is based in the United Kingdom after being hosted in the interim by YouthLead between April and May. GFAN AP continues to be hosted by INPUD with a strengthened MoU which clearly outlines roles and responsibilities between the INPUD and GFAN AP as well as the roles of GFAN AP SC members.



Based on recommendations from the report, Ms Ruth Morgan Thomas also began discussions with the Asia-Pacific regional KP networks in December to further strengthen collaborations between the Seven Alliance partners to finalise bilateral MoUs with each partner to strengthen joint advocacy efforts. This would be further finalised with a new GFAN AP SC after Q2 of 2024.

**GFAN AP thanks all partners for an amazing 2023 and looks forward to even stronger action in 2024!**