

Statement on the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by Nordic civil society to Nordic decision makers

14.06.2019

Dear Minister of Development Dag Inge Ulstein,

With Norway's support, the world has made remarkable progress in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. Over the last two decades, we have seen incredible developments in prevention, diagnostics and treatment of the three diseases.

Since it was founded in 2002, Global Fund-supported programs have saved more than 27 million lives. In countries where the Global Fund operates, AIDS mortality has fallen by half from a peak in 2005, and TB and malaria deaths have declined by 25% and 45%, respectively, since 2000.

But after years of remarkable progress in the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria, new threats have pushed us off track. Right now, we are not on trajectory to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending the epidemics by 2030. Wavering political commitment, shortfalls in funding, entrenched (and in some cases, worsening) gender inequalities and human rights-related barriers to access to health services, and increasing insecticide and drug resistance, have slowed progress and enabled the diseases to gain ground. The human toll is unacceptable; Every hour, more than 100 people die of AIDS-related causes. A death that could have been prevented by access to treatment. A child still dies every two minutes from malaria. And TB is now the world's leading killer among infectious diseases.

Today, we have the tools to end the worst epidemics of our time. We can end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030 - a goal Heads of State agreed to when they endorsed the SDGs, but only if we fully fund the fight against these diseases

On October 10th, France will host the Global Fund Sixth Replenishment. The fundraising target is a minimum of US\$14 billion for the next three-year cycle, equivalent to a 15% increase from all donors. If achieved, the Global Fund partnership can save 16 million lives, cut the mortality rate caused from HIV, TB and malaria in half and help build stronger health systems by 2023. If not, the decreased ambitions will have detrimental consequences for people who are affected by the diseases and those at risk of infection.

Your commitment matters. Over the years, the Nordic countries have been crucial actors in global health and the fight against the epidemics, with a strong voice on issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), health systems strengthening, human rights and non-discrimination, transparency and efficiency. By using your continued voice on these important issues, you will steer and guide the Global Fund to successfully reach its goals. We now have a chance to end the epidemics, but to do so, we need to **step up the fight**. With just 11 years left, we have no time to waste.

Therefore, we call on you and other Nordic leaders to reaffirm the strong commitment to ending these epidemics by 2030 through an increased pledge for the Global Fund at the sixth replenishment.

The authors of this letter are part of the civil society in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland and we are in different ways engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

LHLs internasjonale tuberkulosestiftelse (LHL Internasjonal)

Leger Uten Grenser

HivNorge

Sex og Politikk

Helseutvalget

AIDS-Fondet, Denmark

Médecins Sans Frontières, Denmark

Médecins Sans Frontières, Sweden

Médecins du Monde Sweden

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, RFSU

Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights, RFSL

World Infection Fund, Sweden

HIV-Sweden

Hivpoint, Finland

HIV-Finland

HIV-Iceland

US\$14 BILLION

FOR THE GLOBAL FUND WOULD...

HELP GET THE WORLD BACK ON TRACK TO END HIV, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA:

SAVE between 2021 and 2023, reducing the mortality rate by **52 percent** across the three diseases by 2023, relative to 2017 levels.

16 MILLION LIVES

REDUCE across the three diseases to **1.3 million** in 2023, down from **2.5 million** in 2017, and from **4.1 million** in 2005.

THE DEATH TOLL

AVERT 234 MILLION
INFECTIONS OR CASES

reducing the incidence rate by **42 percent** across the three diseases by 2023, relative to 2017 levels.

ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARD SDG 3 AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE:

STRENGTHEN through directly investing approximately **US\$4 billion** to build capacities such as diagnostic tools, surveillance systems, supply chain management and training for health care workers, and accelerating the shift toward patient-centered, differentiated models of care.

HEALTH CARE
SYSTEMS

REINFORCE by helping build more resilient health systems, with stronger surveillance, diagnostic and emergency response capabilities, and by directly tackling key threats to global health security, such as multidrug-resistant TB.

HEALTH
SECURITY

YIELD A RETURN with every dollar invested resulting in **US\$19** in health gains and economic returns, further contributing to the achievement of the overall SDG agenda.

ON INVESTMENT
OF 1:19

SPUR DOMESTIC toward ending the three diseases and strengthening health systems through co-financing requirements, and technical assistance on health financing.

INVESTMENT OF
US\$46 BILLION

TACKLE including gender- and human rights-related barriers to access, by working with partners, including civil society and affected communities, to build more inclusive health systems that leave no one behind.

INEQUITIES
IN HEALTH

With a Sixth Replenishment of at least US\$14 billion, the Global Fund would contribute to achieving these results alongside sustained levels of other external funding scaled-up domestic financing, and more innovation, collaboration and rigorous execution.