

Support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Please join Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) in the call for strong support for Global the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. For information, or to sign onto the letter, please contact Diala.Jadallah@mail.house.gov in Rep. Lee's office or Pierro.Tozzi@mail.house.gov in Rep. Smith's office.

The closing date for this letter is COB Thursday, January 17, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. State Department

2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing in support of a three-year pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) for its 6th Replenishment in 2019. As you know, the United States pledged up to \$4.3 billion over three years for the Global Fund's 5th Replenishment, and Congress has appropriated amounts consistent with that pledge.

The Global Fund partnership has saved many millions of lives since 2002. Given the Global Fund's impressive results and the continuing, urgent priority to save lives and end three of the major infectious disease killers in the world, we believe the United States should make a 6th Replenishment pledge for 2020-2022 that exceeds the last Replenishment.

The Global Fund has enjoyed broad bipartisan support from both the House of Representatives and our colleagues in the Senate. This support has been maintained because the Global Fund has consistently demonstrated concrete progress in saving lives. Overall, the number of deaths caused by AIDS, TB and malaria each year has been reduced by one-third since 2002 in countries where the Global Fund invests.

Because of its results-oriented, efficient, and transparent approach, the Global Fund has received high marks in multilateral aid reviews. Independent watchdogs with the highest standards, including the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), agree. The U.S. government served as the institutional lead for MOPAN's recent assessment, which commended the Global Fund for its clear strategic direction, risk management, transparency, accountability, and "low operational budget."

The Global Fund also enjoys sustained bipartisan support because its activities reinforce and magnify the impact of U.S. bilateral global health programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative, and the USAID Tuberculosis program. Our bilateral global health programs and the Global Fund closely coordinate their work and depend on each other for success.

In addition, the United States invests in the Global Fund to leverage global health funding from other donors. By law the United States cannot contribute more than 33% of total Global Fund financing, meaning that our contribution challenges other donors to step up. For the current 5th Replenishment, 9 of

the 11 biggest donors (not including the United States) markedly increased their pledges to the Global Fund.

The Global Fund also encourages implementing countries to contribute more to the health of their own people by withholding 15% of grants until increased domestic health funding is demonstrated. And the Global Fund has shown it is willing to withhold funding if countries do not live up to their commitments, as it did earlier this year in Nigeria.

The Global Fund benefits from strong, independent oversight through the Office of the Inspector General. In the rare instances where funds have been misspent, the Global Fund has reportedly achieved a 98% recovery rate. The Global Fund is also notable for its partnerships with the private sector and faith-based organizations – as donors, members of the board, and as implementing partners. It prioritizes human rights and a voice for civil society and key populations affected by the diseases in decision-making, in design of programs, and in delivery of care.

The U.S. investment in the Global Fund does more than save lives and fight diseases – it helps keep Americans safe and benefits our diplomatic and trade relationships. The rapid spread of a new infectious disease is among the most likely scenarios to cause the deaths of tens of millions of people. U.S. global health investments, including through the Global Fund, build stronger disease surveillance and health delivery systems, helping the United States by addressing health threats before they reach our shores. It is an investment in U.S. security, and in countries that are critical markets for U.S. exports.

We must not lose momentum in the fight to end AIDS, TB and malaria. We urge the Administration to make an early pledge to the Global Fund's 6th Replenishment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Chris Smith
Member of Congress