



## **Reaffirming global solidarity among women in all our diversity: One community living with and affected by HIV, TB and malaria**

Many of us at Women4Global Fund (W4GF), as well as our families, friends and communities, have benefitted from the major advances over the years in HIV, TB and malaria around the world. Yet we are deeply concerned about the future as progress is stalling and we must work to halt these devastating trends.

We live in a time where the world seems more divisive and exclusive and funds for and commitment to communities with HIV and TB are dwindling. Governments agreed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) anchored by the principle of “leave no one behind” and at the same time take steps that will do precisely that: Donor government funding to support HIV responses in low- and middle-income countries decreased from \$8.6 billion in 2014 to \$7.5 billion in 2015<sup>1</sup> and many national governments are failing to respect human rights and sufficiently fund HIV, TB<sup>2</sup> and malaria, actions that are leaving many men and women – especially from key affected populations highly vulnerable and without access to the treatment and services they need for their health and overall well-being.

Reducing support and attention at this critical time will reverse hard-earned gains achieved through strengthened global partnerships. Greater, not fewer, resources are needed to sustain and scale up responses to the three diseases and address gender inequality so that all men and women get what they need, including those in middle-income countries and especially people from key affected populations. Investing and scaling up more, not less, will not only help reduce inequalities but also save money and other resources in the long run as fewer people are at risk from and affected by the three diseases<sup>3</sup>.

People living with HIV and those who support us must stand together to redefine a global agenda, grounded in human rights and equity, which empowers all of us to access treatment and live full and healthy lives. This should be an agenda that builds bridges, emphasises solidarity and sustains relationships, and one through which we recognise and question unjust social conditions that might not affect us directly but are important priorities across the world for women in all our diversity.

We promise to promote gender equality and human rights of women and girls through laws that protect and uphold these rights. We want and expect treatment and prevention options that meet our priority needs and the hopes and expectations of our families, communities and women and girls in all our diversity everywhere. We demand accountability and the capacity to meaningfully engage and participate in all decisions, policies and other actions that affect us.

Let 2017 be the year that our efforts result in adequate funding from donor governments as well as from our own governments. More than ever before, let us achieve critical and long-lasting breakthroughs in obtaining justice and addressing negative assumptions and stereotypes, stigma and discrimination, violence, racism, sexism and ageism in our homes,

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. Financing the Response to HIV in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: International Assistance from Donor Governments in 2015. July 2016

<sup>2</sup> Meet Global HIV and TB Commitments Now: A Call for Action and Global Solidarity

<sup>3</sup> Health Gap 10 Myths & Facts about Donor Funding for the Global HIV Response



communities and at the national level. We have worked too hard to let the gains made slip through our fingers.

This World AIDS day we recommit to the following core W4GF principles:

1. **Women's rights are human rights** – The rights and priorities of women are equally as important as men's. The human rights of all women must be upheld, regardless of our health status, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, race, class, caste, work, lifestyle, and other statuses. W4GF will work to ensure that these principles are reflected in Global Fund and related decision-making.
2. **Women have the legitimate right to equitably benefit from HIV, TB and malaria resources** – W4GF will work to ensure that resources are spent efficiently, effectively and with the right communities, and that they reach women in all their diversity. In particular, W4GF will work to ensure that there are sufficient mechanisms, spaces and opportunities for women to participate and lead.
3. **Women are agents of change** – Women are not merely beneficiaries or passive recipients of Global Fund programmes. Women have played, and will continue to play, essential roles in advocacy and delivery of rights-based HIV, TB and malaria responses.
4. **Women are diverse** – As a community, women are not homogeneous; most notably, different communities of women face multiple layers of stigma and discrimination in their lives and thus different approaches and support options are needed. W4GF will work to ensure that this reality is reflected in the Global Fund and that its policies and programmes respond to this diversity.

As W4GF advocates - we promise to work towards ending inequality and violence in our lives and communities and to challenge the status quo. We come from all corners of the world and draw strength from our diversity. We are capable, strong and worthy of living a full life and being respected and remaining healthy and safe!

*For more information, please contact Sophie Dilmitis, Global Coordinator, Women4GlobalFund (W4GF) – [sophie@women4gf.org](mailto:sophie@women4gf.org) [www.women4gf.org](http://www.women4gf.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/women4globalfund/> Women4GlobalFund (W4GF) is a dynamic and global platform of women and gender equality advocates who share a deep commitment to ensuring that Global Fund programmes are gender-transformative to meet the rights and specific priorities of women and girls in all our diversity.*