

## **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022**

The importance of an ambitious UK pledge for the Global Fund

### **Key messages to the UK government**

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria will be hosting its Seventh Replenishment in the USA in September 2022.
- As Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth, it is essential that Boris Johnson and his government demonstrate strong support for the Global Fund and its impact across the Commonwealth and globally.
- The Global Fund needs a 30% increase from all donors from the Sixth Replenishment in order to meet its \$18 billion target for the Seventh Replenishment.
- The Global Fund contributes enormously to the priorities set out in the UK's recently published International Development Strategy; including supporting women and girls, ending preventable deaths and enabling impactful humanitarian response.
- At the 2018 CHOGM hosted by the UK Government, leaders committed to halving malaria by 2023. Securing at least \$18bn for the Global Fund will decrease malaria deaths by 62% and malaria will be eliminated from an additional six countries by 2026. If we are to stay true to commitments from the 2018 CHOGM, renewed UK partnership with the Global Fund will be critical.
- In line with these priorities, the UK - along with all other donors - must make an ambitious pledge at the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment conference. A 30% pledge increase would recognise the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the response to the three diseases and set the course for ending the epidemics.
- As the second largest donor at the Sixth Replenishment, the UK Government holds a critical role in unlocking the USA's proposed \$6 billion pledge. Each \$1 from the USA must be matched with \$2 from other donors. Anything less than a 30% increase will leave millions of dollars on the table.
- The UK Government must use the Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting to demonstrate its support for the Global Fund and should stand with Commonwealth leaders in ensuring a successful Seventh Replenishment for the Global Fund.

## **Background**

### **UK and the Global Fund**

Since its inception, the UK has played a pivotal role in the success of the Global Fund. In response to the catastrophic impacts of the ongoing TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria epidemics in the early 2000s, the UK co-founded the Global Fund, working with G8 countries to establish the new mechanism for saving lives and putting an end to the three diseases.

The UK has historically been a leader in funding for the Global Fund. Since its creation, the UK has been the Global Fund's third largest sovereign donor, pledging a total of around £5 billion. This funding has gone towards ending the preventable deaths of people living with HIV, TB and malaria, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthening health systems globally.

In 2019, the UK made a historic contribution to the Global Fund. The UK's pledge of £1.4 billion was their largest to date and made the UK the second largest donor at the Sixth Replenishment.

In total, the UK's commitments to the Global Fund have saved over 3 million lives - supporting programmes across the Commonwealth to bring an end to HIV, TB and malaria epidemics.

### **Alignment with UK Government priorities**

In May 2022, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office published its new International Development Strategy. This strategy sets the course for the UK Government's international development priorities. In particular, the strategy highlights the importance of the Commonwealth and multilateral organisations in achieving the UK's development goals.

Investment in the Global Fund aligns strongly with the UK Government's development priorities:

- **Women and girls;** women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by ill health as a results of AIDS, TB and malaria. 60% of the Global Fund's spending is specifically targeted to programmes supporting women and girls, and about one third of Global Fund investments directly benefit Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
- **Humanitarian response;** the Global Fund has been a leading force in supporting countries across the Commonwealth and globally to respond

to the COVID-19 pandemic and providing essential emergency resources to support health systems in times of crisis, like the ongoing war in Ukraine.

- **Saving lives and ending preventable deaths;** the Global Fund has transformed the responses to HIV, TB and malaria across the Commonwealth and other countries where the Global Fund invests. The three diseases are treatable and preventable and reinvestment in the Global Fund will save 20 million more lives between 2024 and 2025.