



H.E. Svenja Schulze
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin
Germany

30 June 2022

Re: Germany's commitment to the 7th Replenishment of the Global Fund

Dear Minister Schulze,

We write to you on behalf of Women4GlobalFund (W4GF) Advocates, Speak Up Africa and the Her Voice Fund. We are a global network of gender equality advocates from more than 62 countries¹, committed to ensuring that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) programmes are gender-transformative to meet the rights and priorities of women and girls in all our diversity.

We fully recognize and welcome your strong signal of support toward the Global Fund 7th Replenishment by announcing a commitment of EUR 1.2 billion. It brings us one step closer to the US\$18 billion target to reach our joint goals. **As we approach the pledging conference in September, we are writing to implore you to set a good precedent as G7 Presidency and show your continued leadership in global health by making a pledge of at least €1.3 billion to the Global Fund 7th Replenishment. This will help to build momentum for the pledging conference and send a powerful signal to other donors to scale up their investments.**

As a diverse network of women and girls, we have seized all opportunities to inform HIV, TB and malaria policies, strategies and national responses. We are proud of our contributions and advocacy in the new Global Fund strategy (2023-2028) to prioritize human rights and gender equality across the three diseases. We could not have achieved this if it were not for strong development policies such as Germany's, which focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), investments aligned with national strategies and in-country partners, health systems strengthening, equitable access to health services, and human rights.

As a founding member of the Global Fund, Germany has helped shape global health to ensure an inclusive partnership, engagement with communities and a country-led funding model. Today, we are counted amongst the lives saved, and are able to exercise choice over our sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The stakes could not be higher now and we need Germany's ongoing strong leadership, twenty years after the endorsement of the Global Fund at the G7.

Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by ill health as a result of AIDS, TB and malaria. Your contribution of € 5 billion to the Global Fund has been instrumental in helping to ensure that women and girls, especially those living with HIV and young women in most affected countries, are

¹ W4GF advocates in Albania, Argentina, America, Australian, Bangkok, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.



able to realise their SRHR. We know this because about one third of Global Fund funding directly benefits SRHR, including activities like comprehensive sexuality education, addressing gender-based violence and supporting girls to stay in school. This makes the Global Fund arguably the largest multilateral provider of grants to improve the health and wellbeing of girls and women globally.

The world continues to face numerous complex challenges including global pandemics such as COVID-19 and conflicts. Within these uncertain times the needs of women and girls, especially living with and affected by HIV, TB and malaria must not be forgotten. The last couple of years reminds us that providing health and social services to mitigate the impact of a disease cannot be dissociated from social issues like gender equality that define how service provision is designed, and which impact our ability to access services and to have bodily autonomy. Access to quality and equitable health services, food and nutrition security, economic justice, including safety against violence we experience remain goals we hope to realize in our lifetime.

Reaching US\$18 billion would allow the Global Fund to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the most affected countries by 72% and save 20 million lives (from 2024-2026) and reduce the mortality rate by 64% across the three diseases by 2026, relative to 2020 levels. We also know that every US\$1 invested increases 31-fold and supports health gains and economic returns, further contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

We commend your personal engagement of championing a feminist development policy and putting gender equality high on the G7 agenda. **We are relying on you to keep up the momentum and continue to support gender transformative and affirming approaches, including through the Global Fund, now and in the future.** Inequitable access to health services and commodities exacerbate inequalities and undermine progress made. **Failing to commit 30% more than in the 6th Replenishment will undermine the ambition for the next three years and will have devastating impacts for women and girls the world over, including on previous investments made by all donors.**

We thank you for your leadership and hope for assurances of your highest consideration to this pressing matter of global concern.

Most respectfully and in solidarity,

W4GF Global Coordinator

W4GF is a dynamic 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 priorities of women and girls in all our diversity. For more information, contact Sophie Dilmitis, Global Coordinator [EMAIL](#) | [WEB](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#)

The HER (HIV Epidemic Response) Voice Fund supports the meaningful engagement and leadership of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in decision-making spaces with the aim of reducing HIV incidence and improving our broader health, well-being, and rights. For more information, contact Maximina Jokonya, HER Voice Fund Coordinator, [EMAIL](#), [WEB](#), [FACEBOOK](#), [TWITTER](#)

Speak Up Africa is a policy and advocacy action tank dedicated to catalyzing leadership, enabling policy change, and increasing awareness for sustainable development in Africa. Ensuring health and well-being of all, we support SDGs 1 - 6 in transforming societies throughout Africa. For more information, contact Maelle Ba, Strategic Communications Manager [EMAIL](#) | [WEB](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#)