

Global Fund’s Statement in support of the UN Multistakeholder Hearing for the UN High-level Meeting on TB
May 15, 2023

Urgent need to ramp up funding for TB programs:

- There is simply not nearly enough funding today to end the TB pandemic. The Global Plan to End TB for 2023-2030 provides a clear roadmap of priority actions needed to end TB as a public health challenge by 2030. We need to invest US\$19 billion a year to deliver TB prevention and care to all who need it. But in 2021, countries invested only US\$5.4 billion, down from US\$6 billion in 2019.
- The Global Fund has been working to help bridge this gap by mobilizing funding from a broad range of government and private sector donors. The Global Fund is by far the largest external funder of TB programs – we provide 76% of all external financing for TB. But we clearly need more money.
- The Global Fund also encourages countries to increase domestic resources for TB, and we catalyze innovative finance initiatives to fund TB programs in LMICs.
- **We urge Member States to commit to increasing funding to the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the largest external grant funder for TB programs, and to support innovative financing mechanisms to help close the funding gap for TB programs, such as blended finance efforts with Multilateral Development Banks, co-financing schemes, and debt swap schemes.**
- There has been incredible global momentum in the fight against COVID-19. That same level of urgency must propel the response to TB today.

Investing in TB strengthens pandemic preparedness:

- Together with partners we have found through twenty years of experience fighting HIV, TB, and malaria that the best way to prepare for future pandemics is by strengthening health systems to fight the pandemics of today.
- Turbocharging the fight against TB is the surest path towards cost-effective PPR. LMICs used the same tools the Global Fund partnership developed and the same systems we supported to fight TB in order to fight COVID-19. COVID-19 also spurred prevention, diagnostic, treatment and community outreach innovations that ensure more people with TB are being found, treated and cured of this devastating disease.
- Investments in ending TB reinforce pandemic preparedness and build resilience. We are talking about the same lab workers, diagnostic machines, supply chains, primary health care facilities, disease surveillance capabilities, and community health workers.
- **We urge Member States to turbocharge the fight against TB and the other “pandemics of today” like malaria and HIV as the most effective and cost-efficient**

way to build resilient health systems and country capacity to confront the next pandemic threat.

Scale up equity and access to innovation:

- Strong health systems and community systems together serve as an essential foundation for pandemic preparedness and for ensuring equitable access to existing and new quality-assured health products.
- **We urge Member States to commit to scale up equitable access to new tools and innovations, such as new diagnostic tools and treatment regimens, to accelerate our progress towards ending TB by 2030.**
- **We ask Member States to fully fund the fight against TB, particularly through the Global Fund, which is the largest multilateral procurer of HIV, TB, and malaria products and a key driver of equitable access to existing and new quality-assured health products in LMICs.**

Role of civil society and communities:

- Thanks to our advocates, including civil society and communities, the TB community is succeeding in keeping the focus on TB and rallying world leaders to meet their commitments. The Global Fund looks forward to continuing to work with TB partners throughout the year to ensure the HLM produces a strong set of commitments, and generates the political will needed to achieve them and end this disease for good.
- The three UN High Level Meetings on health this year provide an opportunity to foster greater integration of efforts to end the major pandemics of today like TB, to enhance PPR, and to make progress toward UHC. The Global Fund embodies this integration by serving as the key grant financing mechanism for donors to support low- and middle-income countries to accelerate all three agendas.