

# From Promises to Progress: A call to Action to Financing Global Health Solutions for women and girls in all their diversity and the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria

The [2024 World Health Summit](#) and the [UNITE Global Summit](#), taking place from October 13th to 16th in Berlin, present a crucial opportunity to address the pressing challenges that underpin a persistent global health crisis. The rise of anti-rights and anti-gender movements, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating impact of climate change, ongoing armed conflicts, and widening structural inequalities pose substantial threats to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the face of these obstacles, the scarcity of funding allocated to health, human rights, and gender equity underscores a troubling lack of political commitment to address the world's most urgent health challenges. WHS 2024 and the UNITE Global Summit offer an essential platform to mobilise resources, reimagine health and community systems, and actively engage women and girls in all their diversity<sup>1</sup> in decision-making processes and public policy discussions. This is especially vital in confronting the ongoing challenges posed by HIV, TB, and malaria.

As gender disparities in healthcare access widen and trust in health systems is eroding, it is crucial to bring together political leaders, health experts, CSOs, and community representatives to identify innovative solutions through collaborative approaches, particularly to tackle the pressing global health threats of HIV, TB, and malaria, which remain among the most lethal diseases. Women and girls in all their diversity must be at the centre of these discussions—not only because they face additional social and economic challenges but because their roles as community health workers, leaders, health experts, advisers, and advocates are essential to ensure sustainable progress and health outcomes.

These events provide W4GF, a global movement network of 327 advocates from 75 countries, dedicated to promoting gender equality within the Global Fund programs, with an unprecedented opportunity to urge the international community on the urgency of investing in women's and girls' health in their diversity. Since its creation, the Global Fund has saved over 65 million lives<sup>2</sup> with its investment, providing a unique governance structure to foster women and girls' leadership. Only by considering the specific needs of women and girls in all of our diversity and empowering us to participate in decision-making spaces actively, can we progress in the fight against these pandemics and build a more fair and equitable future for all.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes women living HIV or affected by TB and malaria; women who identify as heterosexual, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or non-binary; women who use drugs; sex workers over 18-years old; adolescent girls and young women; Indigenous women; women who are sometimes displaced internally; migrants and refugees; women and girls who are or have been incarcerated; and women with visible and invisible disabilities.

<sup>2</sup> Global Fund Report 2024

***From Promises to Progress: [Financing Global Health Solutions for women and girls in all of their diversity](#)***

Moving from promises to progress requires concrete funding for effective global health solutions. It is crucial that the commitments made at these summits, including through the Global Fund Partnership, translate into real financial resources to support innovative, accessible, human rights and gender-transformative comprehensive health programmes and health and community systems. Partners must come together to ensure that this funding is directed towards actions that truly meet

the needs of women and girls in all of their diversity. Health outcomes are deeply linked to access to basic human rights, and the backlash against gender progress—through punitive LGBTQIA+ laws and a regressive approach to HIV, TB, and malaria responses—is increasingly harming these outcomes. The 8th replenishment of the Global Fund<sup>3</sup> is a crucial milestone to make it possible, mobilising funds for gender-transformative programmes to fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria as well as health and community systems.

Engaging Parliamentarians in global health discussions is crucial for eliminating gender inequalities in health, prioritising HIV, TB, and malaria programmes, and thus strengthening health and community systems. As key policymakers, Parliamentarians have the power to enact and influence laws that address systemic barriers, allocate resources, and ensure accountability in health systems. Their involvement helps bridge the gap between global commitments and local implementation, driving gender-sensitive and transformative policies that can advance equity in access to healthcare, particularly for the most at risk, as women and girls in all of their diversity. Parliamentarians can champion the integration of gender-transformative approaches, fostering more inclusive and effective health and community systems, and consequently better health outcomes for all.

### ***Global Health Security and Architecture***

The role of Parliamentarians is crucial in shaping global health security and systems architecture through gender-responsive policies. Strengthening health systems requires a focus on women's needs, especially in vulnerable regions. In countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, where malaria is endemic, women's access to healthcare is often severely limited. Parliamentarians can advocate for the establishment of gender-sensitive health infrastructure, such as dedicated centres that provide comprehensive care to women and girls in the most challenging spaces.

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<sup>3</sup> The Global Fund raises and invests money in three-year cycles known as Replenishments. This three-year approach was adopted in 2005 to enable more stable and predictable financing for countries and to ensure ongoing program continuity. In September 2025, the GF will launch the Eight Replenishment fundraising cycle, which will run from 2026-2028.

## ***Sustainable Financing for Health***

Parliamentarians are essential in shaping national and global health policies, with a critical role in securing sustainable and well-targeted financing for health and community systems. The COVID-19 pandemic and years of experience in the fight against HIV, have made it clear that global health systems are deeply interconnected. We underscore the heightened commitment of Parliamentarians from Global Fund donor countries to ensure their governments meet essential allocation commitments as part of global solidarity and international cooperation principles. We highlight the fundamental role of Parliamentarians, from implementing countries, to ensure accountability, efficiency, effective implementation, and co-responsibility; aiming for a sustainable co-financed response. The UNITE Global Summit emphasises the need for consistent, reliable funding tailored to address the specific health needs of women and girls in the most affected regions. Such targeted investments not only strengthen overall health systems but are also crucial to achieving equitable health outcomes for vulnerable populations worldwide. **The Global Fund's 8th Replenishment: a momentum to translate commitments into action**

Integrating HIV care with other health services represents a significant step forward in the discussions on sustainable financing at the 2024 World Health Summit and the UNITE Global Summit. The Global Fund Program, particularly through its 8th replenishment, plays a key role in supporting such initiatives. In Malawi, a pilot project funded by the Global Fund combined HIV care and malaria prevention, reducing the workload of health workers by 30% while improving outcomes for women<sup>4</sup>. This type of mainstreaming illustrates how the commitments made at the summits can be translated into tangible results through concrete and well-funded actions.

Climate change represents a major challenge in the fight against malaria, especially for pregnant women, a topic that has been addressed in the equity discussions at the summits. In collaboration with decision-makers and with the support of the Global Fund Program, it is possible to integrate climate policies into the fight against malaria. In Ghana, targeted actions supported by the Global Fund have reduced malaria transmission in flooded areas, mainly affecting women<sup>5</sup>. This type of action shows the importance of adapting malaria control strategies to the realities of climate change.

[Antimicrobial resistance poses a significant challenge in treating HIV, TB, and malaria, a critical issue addressed at these summits.](#) To overcome this, innovative solutions that improve access to new TB

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.theglobalfund.org/fr/updates/2024/2024-08-27-malawi-global-fund-new-grants-accelerate-progress-against-hiv-tb-malaria/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.afro.who.int/fr/countries/ghana/news/le-ghana-intensifie-ses-efforts-vers-lelimination-du-paludisme>

treatments, particularly for marginalized women and girls, must be prioritized. In India, a Global Fund-supported, community-based program has shown that distributing home-based care kits to women with drug-resistant TB can effectively reduce transmission within households. This example underscores the need for targeted resource allocation to solutions that empower communities, thereby bridging the gap between summit commitments and tangible, on-the-ground actions. Supporting such initiatives strengthens our collective fight against these pandemics and ensures that gender-transformative programs are integral to global health responses.

We commend the [Founding Declaration of the Global Parliamentary Platform in HIV and AIDS<sup>6</sup>](#), signed in July 2024 by over **370 Parliamentarians** from over **45 countries**, and encourage the active participation of the signatories, so we can jointly build democratic and political efforts for a more effective and gender-transformative HIV response.

## Recommendations

Acknowledging that the Global Fund has been a reliable international partnership that has underpinned incredible progress towards eliminating these diseases, we recommend that Parliamentarians at the UNITE Global Summit consider taking the following actions, to build stronger partnerships that finish the job.

### 1. **Commit to Global Fund's 8th Replenishment Allocation Goals**

Parliamentarians should mobilise their political influence to ensure their countries meet and exceed funding targets, as proof of their commitment to global solidarity. The 8th Replenishment is crucial to sustain and expand innovative gender-transformative programs that integrate and strengthen health and community systems and enhance community resilience. Governments and their Parliamentarians have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership with strong funding pledges, which will be met by implementing countries upholding commitments to mobilise their own resources.

### 2. **Promote Gender-Transformative Health Policies**

Advocate for the inclusion of gender-sensitive and gender-transformative policies in national and regional health strategies, particularly in the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria; recognising that valuable lessons learnt and successful experiences can be translated into global health pandemic preparedness and response actions. Health policies that are responsive to the specific needs of women and girls can vastly improve health outcomes and equity, for all.

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<sup>6</sup> Unite, WACI Health, IAS, STOP AIDS, UNAIDS, Global TB Caucus, Global Equality Caucus. (2024) Founding Declaration of the Global Parliamentary Platform on HIV and AIDS

### **3. Foster Political Champions and Strengthen Community Involvement**

Parliamentarians are encouraged to support and nurture political champions within their countries, prioritising health equity and gender-transformative programming. Engaging women and girls in all of their diversity and amplifying the voices of civil society and women-led organisations and movements, is essential to creating a compelling environment for the 8th Replenishment, set to launch in early 2025. This will ensure that community perspectives shape policy, making health and community systems more inclusive and resilient.

### **4. Tackle inequalities in accessing comprehensive healthcare services**

Greater political and financial investment in tackling structural and gender-based inequalities would improve comprehensive access to HIV, TB and malaria comprehensive healthcare services. Therefore, we recommend the periodic analysis and revision of laws and policies that can guarantee the human right of health, improving consultation and dialogue mechanisms with women-led organisations and movements from civil society that can foster evidence-based policymaking.

### **5. Enhance the Global Fund's Strategic Messaging**

We encourage Parliamentarians to support ongoing efforts to refresh and amplify the Global Fund's messaging to underscore its relevance in the evolving global health landscape. Parliamentarians can play a pivotal role in promoting a narrative that resonates with both the public and policymakers, reinforcing the Global Fund's critical role

### **6. Support gender research and development driven by human rights and public health**

Parliamentarians have a pivotal role in advancing and supporting the use of research grounded in human rights and gender perspectives. By promoting evidence-based policy-making, and the critical use of data disaggregated by gender diversities, age, and ethnicity, policymakers can design and implement evidence-based public health policies that effectively address the unique needs of women and girls in all of their diversity. Such a targeted approach not only supports more inclusive health outcomes but also strengthens the foundation for policies that empower marginalised communities and advance gender equality in public health, mainstreaming the national programmes implemented with support from the Global Fund.

## **To conclude: Strengthened advocacy for the future.**

Opportunities to set the tone of the urgency to address global health challenges do not happen every day. It is crucial more than ever to advance in global health discussions and turn them into sustainable, gender-transformative impactful actions. Commitments made at these

events must go beyond pledges; they must drive concrete initiatives that improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls in all their diversity.

Meaningful progress is possible if we act decisively across multiple fronts: by fully supporting the Global Fund's 8th Replenishment, investing in integrated gender-transformative healthcare solutions for HIV, TB, and malaria, ensuring equitable access to health services, promoting technological innovations, and addressing the far-reaching impacts of climate change and crises. Strengthening the leadership of young people, especially young women, is also crucial to equipping future generations with the tools they need to continue the fight against these challenges.

In the end, these actions will pave the way for a healthier, more equitable, and resilient future. The outcomes of Parliamentary actions and stakeholders must signify the start of a profound transformation in global health systems, tailored to meet the urgent needs of women and girls while ensuring long-term sustainability and inclusivity for all. By committing to these efforts, we can help build a world where no one is left behind, and where advancements in global health reach every woman and girl, no matter how remote or underserved.

**[Endorse this call](#) to action individually or with your organisation to push Parliamentarians to secure their political commitments for Global Fund's 8th Replenishment and to secure gender-transformative funding for women and girls in all of their diversity.**