

# **W4GF Statement for International Youth Day 2025**

## **Fueling SDGs and Uniting for a Fully Funded Global Fund**

### **Reaching the 8th Replenishment**

12 August 2025

#### **Global Moment of Reckoning and Youth Agency**

Our world is at a tipping point, development assistance for health has plummeted by 21% from 2024 to 2025, with U.S. funding alone falling by a staggering 67%, [threatening hard-won progress](#) in the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria. The Global Fund Board has highlighted “a moment of reckoning” as convergence of crises, like regional conflicts, shrinking civic space, human rights violations, gender-backlash, and health system stress, imperils the very foundation of [global health](#). In this context, young people, especially adolescents, girls, and young women (AGYW), are not just stakeholders, they are indispensable leaders. Their innovative energy and technical expertise, grassroots reach, and lived experiences must guide bold, intersectional investments across [SDG 3 \(Health\)](#), [SDG 4 \(Education\)](#), and [SDG 5 \(Gender Equality\)](#).

#### **Why the 8th Replenishment must be youth centred to reach a fully funded HIV, TB, and malaria response within The Global Fund?**

Launched in February 2025, the Global Fund's 8th Replenishment aims to mobilize US\$18 billion to save 23 million lives, avert 400 million infections, slash mortality from AIDS, TB, and malaria by 64% from 2023 levels, and deliver 1:19 return<sup>1</sup> on investment, yielding US\$323 billion in [health and economic gains](#).

Early pledges signal momentum and international engagement:

- The [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#) has led in the private sector with a landmark US\$150 million commitment, five times its previous support
- [Spain and Luxembourg](#) have increased their pledges (€145 million and €13.8 million respectively) at the Financing for Development Conference.

But the numbers become even more compelling when you put youth, AGYW, at the center:

Nearly 90% of adolescents living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, and adolescents girls and young women aged 15-24 are three times more likely to acquire HIV than their male peers (UNAIDS, 2024). Targeted youth interventions not only prevent new cases, but also generate long-term fiscal savings by reducing treatment costs over decades. Also, every additional year of education for girls can reduce their risk of acquiring HIV and increase lifetime earnings as it will strengthen economies and reduce future health system costs.

So, to achieve SDG 3 and by extension SDGs 4 and 5 we must scale up, focusing on AGYW as change-makers.

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<sup>1</sup> For every 1 USD invested in Global Fund supported programs, the world gets an estimated 19 USD back in combined health and economic gains

## Strategic Call to Action

- W4GF urges all countries to formally commit to the meaningful inclusion of young people, especially adolescent girls and young women, in Global Fund structures and processes. This includes guaranteeing at least one youth seat in CCMs, prioritizing youth-led voices in funding request development, and resourcing the Global Fund [Youth Council](#) to expand its influence across all Global Fund strategic dialogues and accountability processes.
- W4GF calls on donors to prioritize funding for cross-sectoral and gender-transformative programmes that integrate HIV, TB, malaria comprehensive healthcare services and SRHR, education, and gender equality; not in silos, but as interlinked rights aiming to eliminate structural gender inequalities. Scale up youth-designed, youth-led, and youth-delivered programs, and ensure funding for innovative tools like long-acting injectable PrEP (lenacapavir) and community-rooted prevention models tailored to the realities and needs of young people.
- In the face of converging global crises, from pandemics to conflict and climate stress, donors should consider the Global Fund 8th Replenishment as a strategic inflection point. This means going beyond life-saving interventions to investing in the transformation of public health systems to be youth-responsive, gender-transformative, and pandemic-prepared. Every dollar must build resilient systems that protect youth futures.
- W4GF urges governments, private sector actors, and philanthropic institutions to co-invest with youth-led civil society to multiply the impact of Replenishment. W4GF calls for the replication of catalytic private leadership models, like CIFF's landmark \$150 million pledge, to ensure intergenerational financing mechanisms that place young women and girls at the center of decision-making and delivery.

Join W4GF on this International Youth Day, let's work together, not only for a fully funded Global Fund, but one that elevates youth leadership, integrates health, education, human rights, community and gender approaches, and builds a future where no young person's potential is left untapped.

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### JOIN US

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