Fully Fund the Global Fund - The Global Fund Women Want

The Global Situation
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (Global Fund) is an essential partnership and funding mechanism that supports the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in reaching Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Global Fund’s Fifth Voluntary Replenishment (16-17th September 2016) will be held in Montreal, hosted by the Government of Canada and will address financial support for the allocation cycle 2017 - 2019. Programmes supported by the Global Fund have saved 20 million lives since 2002, and is on track to save 22 million lives by the end of 2016. Through the Global Fund Investment Case the Global Fund is calling for a minimum of US$13 billion in contributions estimated to save 8 million lives; avert 300 million new infections; create US$41 billion in domestic investment; and lead to US$290 billion in long term economic gains. For live updates on country pledges visit Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) here.

The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW), Women4GlobalFund (W4GF), and the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund launched a campaign at the Durban 2016 International AIDS Conference to empower women’s voices around the implementation of the new Global Fund Strategy and the upcoming Global Fund 5th Replenishment – ‘What is the Global Fund women want?’ To get involved please tweet with the hash tag #theglobalfundwomenwant NOW and share your messages!!

Global Fund Strategy 2017 - 2022
The Global Fund Strategy 2017 – 2022: Investing to End Epidemics underscores and reiterates the commitment of donors and implementing countries towards achieving gender equality and promoting human rights, and towards key/vulnerable populations. Gender Equality features for the first time in the Global Fund Strategy in Strategic Objective 3 “Promote and Protect Human Rights and Gender Equality”. This affirms the necessary investments towards sustainable health responses for HIV, TB and Malaria on human rights and gender equality to scale-up, accelerate and sustain the responses towards ending the epidemics. This is aligned with the SDGs, which over the next 15 years, will mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, including gender inequality, while ensuring that no one is left behind!

Investment Case for Women and Girls, Communities & Civil Society
Currently approximately 60% of Global Fund spending directly benefits women and children, translating to more than US$15 - 16 billion invested since 2002, but it is unclear how much of this money has resulted in achieving gender-sensitive or transformative programming. Since 2014, more than US$34 million has been committed to programmes that address human rights barriers to services, including legal and policy barriers, particularly for key populations, and women living with HIV.

The Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Special initiative has invested US$15 million to increase civil society capacity to engage in Global Fund processes in the 2014 – 2016 allocation cycle in: (1) short-term technical support for country dialogues and concept note development (only) up to the point of grant-making; (2) a partnership with the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF); and (3) regional communication and coordination platforms hosted by civil society organisations. Nearly 25% of short-term technical support went towards the development of sound gender-responsive interventions for concept notes (mostly for HIV and HIV/TB), including sustaining women’s groups to engage in country dialogues.

Additionally, approximately 50% of the Global Fund investments supports procurements of medicines; health products and equipment, and because these important features will remain central in building resilient and sustainable systems for health, ensuring that more than US$13 billion is pledged by donors for the Global Fund 5th Replenishment is essential to make real progress and scale-up gender transformative interventions.

The Global Fund, and the global community, will fail to end the epidemics if there is inadequate financial support to achieve its committed mission of addressing gender inequality and human rights. Ending the epidemics and achieving UHC and the SDGs will only be achieved through strong health systems - the core of which includes strong and well-supported community systems beyond service delivery.
Over the last three decades, community-based responses have not been a prominent feature of the health response. The investments towards the engagement and participation of communities - shaping and driving the response has led to many gains - including leveraging ‘lived experiences’ and understanding what does or does not work for women and girls in communities as well supporting access, adherence and retention to prevention and treatment services. Communities of people living with and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria have delivered effective services for marginalised and criminalised populations including maintaining advocacy to create safe and enabling environments and these gains cannot be lost and should be accelerated for impact. The cost of inaction linked to raising less than 13 billion will translate into lives lost due to AIDS, TB and malaria.

Community structures also support work in different ways including the monitoring of the implementation of health programmes, and more investments must go towards communities and civil society to hold their own governments accountable for their commitments and health programmes.

Before the Replenishment Ensure that the Global Fund is Fully Funded

- Continue to work with key partners in different countries/regions to maintain momentum in the lead up to the pledging conference on remaining donors that have not pledged;
- Lobby parliamentarians to support global statements that concentrate on specific donors and their embassies if there are concerns that pledges may not be sustained/ increased;
- Showcase effective national initiatives that demonstrate how women in all their diversity have changed lives and are essential to ending HIV, TB and malaria;
- Support and work with the GFAN and its hubs in Africa and the Asia-Pacific by joining in the call for a fully funded Global Fund; Also see the GFAN Communications toolkit on the replenishment accessible here;
- Join ICW/W4GF in its #theglobalfundwomenwant campaign through sharing your messages on twitter and Facebook. Please tag @ICW_Global @ICWEastAfrica @Women4GF @GFadvocate on twitter.

Following the Replenishment

- Call on governments to increase their domestic financing and monitor that domestic financing increases are going to the three diseases;
- Monitor the implementation of programmes and hold governments accountable to ensure Global Fund programmes more effective and efficient.

The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) is the voice of, and represents women living with HIV, in all our diversity. ICW works in 120 countries and through 10 regional networks. ICW is committed to addressing the multiple oppressions experienced by women living with HIV globally. For more information contact ICW Global Director –Ms Rebecca Matheson at globaldirector@iamicw.org.

Women4GlobalFund (W4GF) is a dynamic and 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 specific needs of women and girls in all their diversity. For more information, please contact Sophie Dilmitis, Global Coordinator, W4GF, sophie@women4gf.org.

The Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund (Communities Delegation) is a voting constituency on the Board of the Global Fund representing communities living with HIV and affected by TB and malaria. The Communities Delegation brings the voices from communities into Global Fund decision-making processes and policy making to ensure that programmes and policies benefit the communities who receive prevention, treatment, care and support in Global Fund Implementing countries.

1Asia Pacific, Caribbean, Central Africa, East Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), North America, Southern Africa, and West Africa