



## **Thank you Netherlands for Contributing to the Global Fund**

4 May 2021

Global Fund Advocates Network - Africa (GFAN Africa) and partners, including communities living with and affected by HIV, TB and malaria and civil society organizations, extend their sincere gratitude to the Netherlands for their contribution of €52 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. These funds are critical to support the accelerated development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

€12 million will be channeled through the Global Fund to strengthen the COVID-19 response while protecting gains made against HIV, TB, and malaria over the last two decades. The remaining €40 million will be invested in the purchase of vaccines through COVAX – the vaccines pillar of the ACT-Accelerator. This pledge follows a previous contribution of €85 million to the global response to COVID-19. Since the pandemic began, the Netherlands contributed €137 million.

We particularly appreciate the commitment of the Netherlands to support all four pillars of the ACT-Accelerator, equally critical to control and contain COVID-19 worldwide. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, said: “We need to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for all countries, rich and poor alike. But we also need strong national health systems to ensure that all essential products reach those most in need.”

COVID-19 has critically disrupted health services in many countries. A new [report](#) by the Global Fund shows that HIV testing fell by 41%, TB referrals declined by 59% and malaria diagnoses fell by 31%. COVID-19 is threatening years of progress in the fight against these three diseases. Furthermore, the scarce availability of COVID-19 commodities significantly affects the capacity of countries to effectively address the pandemic.

The Global Fund, through its COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), is supporting countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs and to initiate urgent improvements in health and community systems.

The financial resources channeled through the Global Fund will contribute to strengthening health systems, increasing access to critically needed diagnostics and therapeutics, and expanding provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health workers. We are very grateful for these resources. They are lifesaving especially for the vulnerable communities in low- and middle-income countries. The Global Fund has extensive health and community networks and well-established health procurement and distribution systems. It is committed to leverage its expertise to rapidly distribute COVID-19 tools medical supplies and deliver key training programs at scale in more than 100 countries.

This new contribution demonstrates the Netherlands' ongoing and generous commitment to global health and to the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

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