



GFAN Africa Applauds United States Contribution of US\$3.5 Billion to the Global Fund to Fight COVID-19

1 April 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 sincere gratitude to the United States, the Biden-Harris Administration, and the U.S. Congress led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for the \$3.5 billion emergency funding commitment they secured for the efforts of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a catastrophic impact on the most vulnerable communities around the world and threatens progress against HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund's leadership in providing guidance, tools and immediate funding of more than US\$1 billion to support countries fight COVID-19, mitigate the impacts on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs, and prevent fragile health systems from being overwhelmed has been fundamental.

The new funding will support low- and middle-income countries to rapidly expand testing capacity and ensure health care workers are adequately protected with personal protective equipment (PPE). The investment will support countries to contain the virus and its variants, ensure those infected have access to care and treatment (including adequate oxygen supplies) and prepare for successful vaccine delivery. It will save many lives, reduce suffering and help economies to reopen safely.

The Global Fund's rich experience in working with civil society, communities, faith leaders, the private sector and governments makes it responsive to local needs and enables it to deploy COVID-19 resources swiftly and effectively at scale worldwide.

We applaud the United States for being the largest Global Fund donor since 2002 when the Global Fund was created. We look forward to global solidarity and leadership by other donor countries, foundations and private sector in funding the Global Fund as an ideal partner in continuing to fight COVID-19, protect health workers and systems for health, and defend progress against HIV, TB and malaria in the countries where the Global Fund invests.

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