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the Global Fund
Europe

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Friends of
the Global Fund
Europe



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EDITO BY LAURENT VIGIER
President of Friends of the Global Fund Europe

2021 WAS A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH, INSTILLING A PARTICULAR RESONANCE IN OUR MISSION



After a tumultuous year in 2020, marked by the brutality of the Covid-19 pandemic and initial efforts to limit its devastating impact by coordinating international action, mobilisation continued with ever greater intensity in 2021, prompting preliminary assessments of the work carried out and leading to enhanced awareness on many fronts.

The emergency response implemented by the international community to support the poorest countries and the most vulnerable populations amid the pandemic brought to light glaring inequality concerning access to tests, treatment and vaccines, demonstrating the limits, in terms of governance and solidarity, of the action undertaken.

Battered by successive waves of Covid-19, the fight against the continuing epidemics of HIV/AIDS,

tuberculosis and malaria, which represents our primary *raison d'être*, retreated for the first time in two decades, widening the gap that separates us from the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating these three diseases by 2030. The Covid-19 crisis compounded the obstacles faced, particularly with regard to gender equality, human rights and access to health systems for populations affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. As such, it showed how intensely pandemics feed on and exacerbate inequalities. It also brought into clear focus the key role of communities as essential pillars of the response, and highlighted the flexibility and adaptability of the Global Fund.

The magnitude of the crisis and its health, economic, social and political consequences raised global health to the level of political priority for many governments, which began to consider the health of populations as a public good that must be bet-

ter protected, rather than simply a component of development assistance. A world-wide debate was initiated in 2021 on the issue of preparing for and responding to future pandemics. This renewed attention will have profound implications for health policies and institutions worldwide, as well as for the funding of such initiatives.

This activity report attests to our Europe-wide mission of political advocacy and information, which has taken on a particular resonance in the current context.

Rarely has health-related news been so profuse. In this context, continuing our rigorous work of gathering and disseminating information on the fight against the three diseases, as well as the Global Fund's programmes and response to Covid-19, has proven essential to allow decision-makers to glean actionable insights from an overabundance of data. We can illustrate, together with the Global Fund, the lessons learned over two decades fighting against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and affirm the importance of drawing on this experience to protect the world from future pandemics. We have helped ensure that policymakers in our European countries realize the importance of coordinated action to preserve the health of people, animals and ecosystems through the One Health concept, which should be incorporated into future global health policies.

Finally, we took advantage of our 15th anniversary to reassert our longstanding adherence to the fundamental objective of ending the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This goal is achievable, provided we demonstrate the necessary determination and financial commitment. The Seventh Global Fund Replenishment will take place in 2022, a year that has already been marked by the violence of the war in Ukraine. Although we cannot yet measure the consequences of this conflict for Eastern Europe and beyond, it stands out as a call for unity.

European Union Member States, particularly France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Luxembourg, play a central role for the Global Fund. Indeed, together with the European Commission, these countries account for 25% of financial commitments undertaken during the organisation's last funding cycle. As such, we will have to carry out especially intense advocacy to ensure that the Global Fund has the resources it needs to reach the minimum target of \$18 billion for 2023-2025.

While rising to this challenge, we will also guide foundational debates around global health and preparation for future pandemics, in line with our ambition of maintaining global health as a key priority for our stakeholders, policymakers and legislators. To this end, we will continue our current efforts to strengthen cooperation with our Advisory Committee, with a view to enriching our viewpoints, enhancing our partnerships with civil society and further developing our communication for more impactful advocacy.

In a multipolar world snared in the upheaval of multiple crises, we will continue to present a demanding and partnership-based European vision shaped by solidarity, multilateralism and participation of the populations concerned. ■

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**WE HAVE TO
ENSURE THAT
THE GLOBAL
FUND REACHES
THE MINIMUM
TARGET OF \$18
BILLION FOR
2023-2025**

PRESENTING A PAN-EUROPEAN VISION

Fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria while preparing for future pandemics



One Health

The “One Health” approach emphasises the need to break down barriers between different fields of development in order to provide a more comprehensive and diversified vision of issues directly and indirectly linked to health. Recognising the interaction and interdependence among the different areas and issues surrounding human, animal and environmental health, Friends Europe sought to promote this overarching approach, and invited a number of experts to address decision-makers in the countries where the association is active, particularly in France and with European institutions.

Reflections on the concept of “One Health”, led by the Friends Europe Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, were also discussed with the Global Fund in November 2021, as the organisation adopted its new 2023-2028 strategy.

Thanks to our presence in six European countries and the diversity of our members, our advocacy activities transcend national borders, contributing to the construction of a pan-European vision.

Preparing for future pandemics

2021 saw the emergence of a debate on preparing the world for future pandemics. Friends Europe members spoke out on this topic, which was addressed at a conference marking the 15th anniversary of the association, as well as in a statement upon the announcement of the U.S. Covid-19 Summit, held in September.

The Board of Directors of Friends of the Global Fund Europe declared: “Friends of the Global Fund Europe are calling for recognition of the central role that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria must play in the response to current and future pandemics, reaffirming the need for a truly inclusive multilateralism and intensified action to fulfil the commitments to achieve SDG 3 and end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria”.



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

On 24 March 2021, Friends Europe recalled that tuberculosis killed 1.4 million people in 2020, and that out of the estimated 10 million cases of TB, 3.6 million went undetected. Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on the fight against tuberculosis. Friends Europe reiterated the urgency of investing in the Global Fund, which accounts for 73% of international funding for the fight against the disease.

World Malaria Day

25 April 2021 was an opportunity to remind the world that 67% of the 409,000 victims of malaria in 2020 were children under five. Friends Europe reiterated the need to stop working in silos, but rather to include the One Health approach in global health strategies, further recalling the vital need for investments in the Global Fund, which accounts for 56% of international funding for malaria control.

World AIDS Day

For World AIDS Day on 1 December, Friends Europe prepared and disseminated a video in the relevant languages via its various communication channels. The video shows some of our Board members urging European leaders to strengthen their commitment to the Global Fund and stressing the importance of investing in the organisation, which recognises the fundamental role played by key and vulnerable populations.

Focus on the three diseases

While the Covid-19 pandemic has sparked new debates and established new health priorities, the goal of eliminating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030 remains crucial and stands out as a persistent priority in our mandate and that of the Global Fund. World Days dedicated to each of these three diseases served as a reminder of this objective.

World TB Day on 24 March, and World Malaria Day on 25 April, provided opportunities to create and publish infographics in several countries via Friends Europe's various communication channels, with a view to assessing the epidemic situation and reminding European decision-makers of their commitment to end these epidemics by 2030. World AIDS Day on 1 December was an opportunity for select Board members to re-focus public attention on some of the Global Fund's key principles. ■

Partnership with the Friends organisations in the U.S. and in Japan

2021 strengthened our partnership and joint activities with the US and Japanese organisations Friends of the Global Fight and Friends of the Global Fund Japan. We worked together on the development of a three-country virtual study tour for 2022, as well as a series of webinars straddling 2021 and 2022.

GERMANY

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**WE AS FRIENDS EUROPE
ALSO WANTED TO MAKE
SURE THAT THE GLOBAL
COMMUNITY IS DRAWING
THE CORRECT CONCLUSIONS
FROM THE PANDEMIC**

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, former Minister of Cooperation and Economic Development in Germany, Vice-Chair of Friends of the Global Fund Europe for Germany



Germany's contributions to the Global Fund

€ 3.982 M

Provided since the creation of the Global Fund.

€ 1.000 M

Pledged at the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2019.

December

Friends Europe participated in a partnership campaign with several German civil society organisations which aimed at encouraging the new government to commit to a fully-funded Global Fund, an ambitious development assistance policy.

You have forged your commitment to global development and justice, first in the European Parliament and then in the Bundestag. What initiatives have spearheaded this year [2021] for Friends of the Global Fund Europe?

2021 was of course an intense year. It was the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. In my country, Germany, we witnessed a national election campaign – which is always a prism for political concepts and arguments – and our organisation followed that very closely. In the middle of all of this, we as Friends Europe also wanted to make sure that the global community is drawing the correct conclusions from the pandemic. My board colleague, Michel Kazatchkine, was member of one of the global expert panels. And when it became clear that the US was planning – as a consequence – to form a new funding mechanism for pandemic preparedness, it was very important to me that we as Friends Europe join the debate and try to clarify how such a fund would work and what it would mean for the global health architecture – including the Global Fund.

During your ministerial posts, you took up the subject of economic cooperation. How is this strategic to promote access to health in Europe and around the world?

During my time in office, I helped to establish the Global Fund and have continued to support it since then. I have always tried, during and after my time in office, to promote fair opportunities for the people in the global south and the global north. And I specifically tried to ensure equity for women in their access to economic opportunity and personal freedoms – and that of course explicitly includes sexual and reproductive health rights. I was very happy to see that the European Medicines Agency approved of the Dapivirine Ring in 2020, which will give women an option to protect themselves against HIV infection. Health is

such a fundamental building block to a self-determined, productive life: children's school careers are threatened by malaria, if they are not protected. Or by diarrhea if there is no proper water and sanitation. Families will be put to the verge of poverty if a family member catches a severe illness such as TB or HIV/AIDS if there are no public health systems to support them. It sounds like a phrase in small talk: "The main thing is, that you're healthy." But there is a lot of wisdom in that.

What highlights did you think marked the year [2021], and what was the place of advocacy in your action and that of Friends Europe?

Allow me to start with a low-light: In December of 2021, with the death of Desmond Tutu, we lost one of the most remarkable and respected voices in the fight against global poverty. I personally remember him very well and I will miss his shining and unshakable optimism for the better, that inspired millions for so many years, including myself.

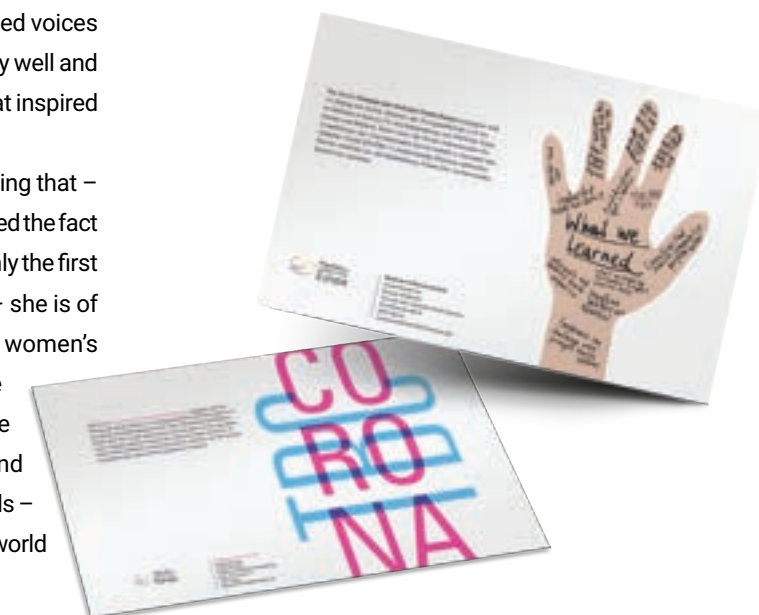
If you ask me about a highlight I think you will forgive me for saying that – although I am not an active politician anymore – I certainly celebrated the fact that we have a new government. And Svenja Schulze is now not only the first woman to lead the German Development Ministry since 2009 – she is of course a Social Democrat and strongly engaged on behalf of women's rights. We are in tough times with a worrying crisis around the Russian aggression towards Ukraine. I will continue to advocate on behalf of global health and women's rights, be it about around detailed issues such as the technic and mechanisms of new funds – or about the fundamental point of health and its importance for a world of equity and justice. ■

German associations demonstrate as part of the 0.7 campaign to urge the German government to allocate at least 0.7% of GNI to official development assistance (ODA).



Observing World Days

To mark World Malaria, AIDS and TB Days, Friends Europe sent customised advocacy messages to more than 220 stakeholders.



ITALY

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**FOR THE G20,
IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO
EMPHASISE THE LINKS
BETWEEN PREVENTING
FUTURE HEALTH
THREATS AND TACKLING
“OLD” PANDEMICS**

By Stefano Vella, Professor of Public Health,
Vice-Chair of Friends of the Global Fund Europe for Italy

Italy's contribution to the Global Fund

€ 1.126 M

Provided since the creation
of the Global Fund.

€ 161 M

Pledged at the Global
Fund Replenishment
Conference in 2019.

The G20 Presidency, which ran from 1 December 2020 to the end of November 2021, was a very important event for the country. It stood out as a first for Italy and a formidable challenge after the devastating impact of the Covid-19 crisis. The Italian Presidency sought to develop a common vision centred around a better future for all. The guiding principles of this G20 included recognising health as a global public good and strengthening pandemic preparedness.

High-level advocacy to explain the concept of global health and position the Global Fund for future reforms

We were very active in several G20 working groups on health, in particular alongside the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which set up the High-Level Independent Panel (HLIP) on Financing Global Public Goods and Preparedness for Future Pandemics, and promoted the creation of a joint working group of G20 Finance and Health Ministers focussed on this topic.

It was essential to emphasise the links between preventing future health threats and tackling “old” pandemics, and to underscore the investments carried out over the past decades in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, which were the cornerstone of the Covid-19 response in many low- and middle-income countries.

We talked a lot about the concepts of health systems strengthening and local community involvement, without which no strategy to respond to a health threat can be effective: these principles are at the heart of the Global Fund's approach.

We worked hard to highlight the critical importance of multilateralism and to advocate for reforming global health in a way that strengthens existing institutions, including the Global Fund. Our work unquestionably contributed to raising the profile of the Global Fund amongst institutions that have not traditionally addressed global health issues, such as the Italian Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Italy and the Italian Ministry of Health.

Broader advocacy work

In Italy, policy advocacy work goes hand in hand with broader awareness-raising, education and communication initiatives targeting both specialists and the general public. As such, in 2021 as in previous years, we continued to spread our ideas in the main Italian newspapers and various other media. Although the Padua Global Health Festival, which we helped to initiate in 2019, could not be held due to the pandemic, we published a collection of the most outstanding contributions from the November 2020 event.

Ensuring equitable access to tests, vaccines and treatments

The G20, then chaired by Indonesia, has worked to improve coordination between Finance and Health ministries and to propose adequate and sustainable funding for future pandemic preparedness.

Its members, including Italy, should learn from the current pandemic and ensure equitable access to tests, vaccines and treatments for Covid-19 and beyond. Our experience fighting AIDS and championing access to antiretroviral treatments has demonstrated how important it is to take account of low- and middle-income countries, as well as to establish resilient supply chains thanks to new and more robust manufacturing capacities and technology-transfer initiatives.

Continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and acknowledging the role of the Global Fund in future pandemic preparedness and health systems strengthening

My core recommendation for 2022 and beyond is that Italy remains committed to global health, bolstering its contribution to the Global Fund to persevere in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and fully playing its role with regard to future pandemic preparedness and health systems strengthening. ■

2021

Friends Europe members addressed messages to nearly 30 high-level Italian interlocutors, in the form of memoranda, speeches, and formal and informal events.



La salute globale

The book *La salute globale* (*Global Health*), published on 7 April 2021 to mark World Health Day, is a collection of contributions from Italian and international experts in the field of global health, including Friends of the Global Fund Europe members. It focuses on the interdependencies between human health, the environment and social inequalities.

EUROPEAN UNION

// THE PANDEMIC HAS ALERTED US TO THE INADEQUACY OF OUR GLOBAL HEALTH POLICIES

By Charles Goerens, Member of the European Parliament, former Minister of Development of Luxembourg, Vice-Chair of Friends of the Global Fund Europe for the European institutions, Belgium and Luxembourg



2021 was a difficult year at the European level. The Covid-19 pandemic upended all our certainties, agendas and priorities. It challenged our equilibrium and called for resilience. At the same time, it brought to light many issues that had long been ignored. Global health is one of these issues. The pandemic demonstrated that despite long-standing warnings from scientists, our health policies are insufficient to prepare for, prevent and respond to such threats.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic made us acutely aware of this gap by increasing inequalities in access to health care. It showed us that production of medicines and vaccines must be rethought from a geographic perspective.

We realised that investing in health means investing in a comprehensive social system, and that health, as a human right, remains inaccessible for much of the planet. On a more positive note, the ACT-Accelerator, among other initiatives, has shown us that with a collective commitment, we can implement the means to overcome crises.

The European Union has been a key driver of the global response to the crisis.

Throughout 2021, the European Union stood out as a leader in global health. Indeed, the European Commission was a driving force behind the ACT-Accelerator initiative and contributed €1 billion to COVAX to ensure equitable access to vaccines worldwide. In addition, in mid-September, the European Commission launched its new pandemic preparedness and response agency, HERA (European Health Emergency Response and Preparedness Authority), which serves as a hub of shared resources and missions for Member States and EU institutions to better prepare the European Union for cross-border

health threats. This initiative reflects the EU's commitment to putting these issues at the top of its agenda. The European Council also pioneered an international treaty on pandemics to better prepare for, prevent and respond to future health threats.

Communities affected by AIDS, TB and malaria have paid a high price this year.

As a parliamentarian, it is extremely important for me to make these three diseases visible and give them the attention they deserve, so that we can work together to end them by 2030. In May 2021, I joined colleagues from the Committee on Development (DEVE) in rallying support in the European Parliament for a resolution on a human rights-based approach to AIDS/HIV, which called for the European Union to increase its contribution to the Global Fund. This support continued and led to the adoption of a resolution on "Accelerating progress and tackling inequalities towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030". In addition to this successful resolution, the past year was an important opportunity for Friends Europe to enrich discussions around various global health topics, including health security and the One Health approach.

Year after year, creating a growing network of political actors who are better informed and more convinced of the need to work together in support of communities affected by AIDS, TB and malaria.

Our main focus for 2022 is unquestionably the Seventh Global Fund Replenishment, which will take place in the United States in autumn. Meanwhile, we will strive to offer the Global Fund maximum visibility among key decision-makers, highlighting the need for financial resources to fight HIV, TB and malaria even more effectively, as well as the need for investments to better prevent and prepare for future health threats.

In the longer term, we will continue championing initiatives to strengthen our global health policies and increase the development budget. We hope to resume our Global Fund programme visits to partner countries and to increase the number of meetings and events here in Brussels and Luxembourg with a view to raising the profile of our commitment. ■

Resolution of 20 May 2021

In its Resolution of 20 May "Accelerating progress and tackling inequalities towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030" – the European Parliament noted that the inequalities driving the HIV epidemic, including violation of human rights and sexual and reproductive rights, have been further exacerbated by Covid-19. It recalled the central role of the Global Fund in the fight against HIV/AIDS and stressed the need to provide the organisation with the resources necessary to make a decisive contribution to eliminating the disease by 2030.

The European Union's contribution to the Global Fund

€ 2.507 M

Provided by the European Commission since the creation of the Global Fund.

€ 550 M

Pledged at the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2019.



For World AIDS Day on December 1st, Friends Europe organised a virtual event around the "One Health" approach which gathered many experts and European decision-makers.

FRANCE

Friends of the Global Fund Europe has been particularly active in France since its creation in 2005

France's contribution to the Global Fund

€ 5.646 M

Provided since the creation of the Global Fund.

€ 1.296 M

Pledged at the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2019.



The association plays a central role within a long-standing community of stakeholders engaged in development activities and the fight against HIV, while also contributing to various nationwide global health platforms.

Thanks to sustained advocacy by Friends of the Global Fund Europe and French civil society, France hosted the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment in Lyon in 2019. France's commitment and leadership made it possible to meet the organisation's funding goal for 2020-2022: \$14 billion to fight the three diseases and strengthen health systems. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic reshaped global health architecture, bringing new challenges to the fore.

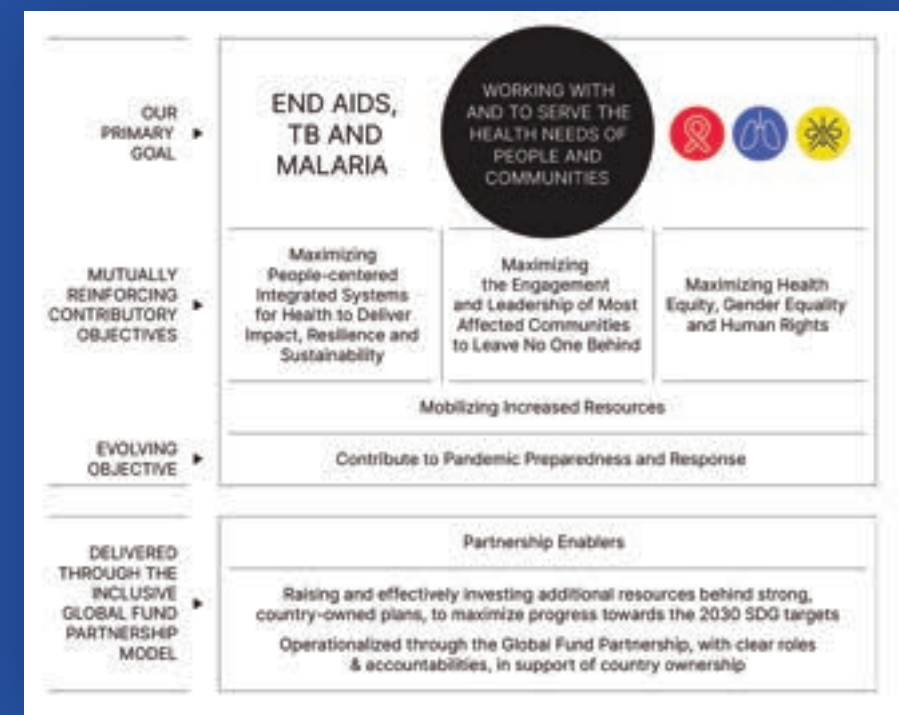
2021: a year of preparation for the Global Fund Replenishment Conference

Friends of the Global Fund Europe maintained its close and longstanding relations with French decision-makers and the Global Fund in 2021, with a view to offering insight and guidance for the new 2023-2028 Global Fund strategy, adopted in November 2021. Friends Europe has also kept track of France's policy positions and financial commitments in the context of ACT-A, seizing various opportunities to recall the role of the Global Fund in responding to the Covid-19 crisis. In addition, Friends of the Global Fund Europe participated in the consultation process for the evaluation of France's 2017-2021 global health strategy. Our activities in 2021 also focussed on preparing French decision-makers – in a context marked by presidential and legislative elections – for the major events leading up to the Seventh Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2022.

Health security and pandemic preparedness

In June, ahead of the G7 Summit in the UK, Friends of the Global Fund co-hosted a conference alongside the RBM Partnership, Malaria No More UK and US, the United Nations Foundation, APLMA and the Global Fund, on the issues of malaria control, health systems strengthening and future pandemic preparedness in malaria-endemic countries. Friends of the Global Fund Europe made it possible for France's Ambassador for Global Health and Italy's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend this event.

Objectives described in the Global Fund 2023-2028 strategy adopted in November 2021.

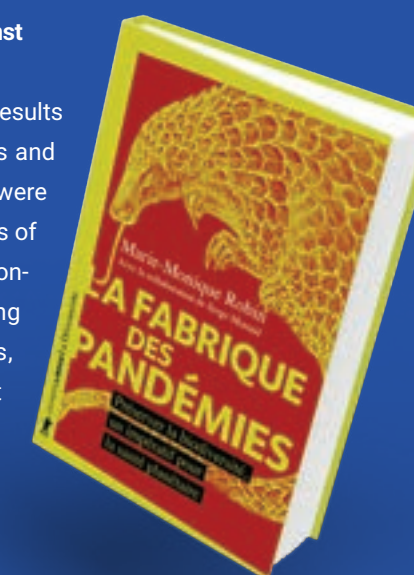


Adoption of the Global Fund's 2023-2028 strategy:

We took part in the consultative process of revising the Global Fund's strategy, putting forth positions espoused by our Board of Directors and Expert Committee, and facilitating the participation of French policymakers in certain stages of drafting the strategy.

A devastating step backwards in the fight against the three diseases due to Covid-19

In September, the Global Fund published the results of its programmes to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. For the first time in 20 years, gains were reversed under the impact of Covid-19. Friends of the Global Fund Europe alerted French decision-makers and stakeholders to the devastating effects of Covid-19 on the three diseases, recalling the next Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2022 and the need to mobilise the international community to reverse the trend and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the area of health. ■



"La Fabrique des pandémies" by Marie-Monique Robin, published by La Découverte.

France's leadership in the Global Fund

France has been a driving force in the fight against the three diseases, as well as for global health and the Global Fund. Indeed, the country was instrumental, alongside other nations, in creating the Global Fund. France has steadily increased its financial support to the organisation, with a total of €5.65 billion invested to date, making it the second largest regular contributor. France hosted the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference in Lyon on 9 and 10 October 2019, and reaffirmed its commitment by announcing a 20% increase in its contribution, which rose to €1.296 billion for the 2020-2022 period. Following that Replenishment Conference, the Global Fund succeeded in meeting its target of \$14 billion.

Understanding the challenges of Covid-19 and pandemic preparedness through the "One Health" approach

In July, Friends of the Global Fund Europe organised an event around the "One Health" approach to illustrate the interconnections between human, environmental and animal health. The event was an opportunity to present the book by investigative journalist Marie-Monique Robin "The Pandemic Factory - Preserving Biodiversity: An Imperative for Global Health" and to hear her testimony. Several specialists in health and development policies offered their perspectives and provided answers on the collective efforts to be undertaken to better prepare for future pandemics.

OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY



ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE GLOBAL FUND'S FINANCING IS THE CONSISTENT INVESTMENT OF FRIENDS EUROPE IN CREATING SPACES FOR DELIBERATION AMONG DECISION-MAKERS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, EXPERTS AND GLOBAL HEALTH PARTNERS

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA

INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Sylvie Chantereau, former Executive Director of Friends of the Global Fund Europe until September 2021

2021 marked the 15th anniversary of Friends of the Global Fund Europe.

How did you celebrate this milestone?

Friends of the Global Fund Europe celebrated its 15th anniversary on 2 September 2021 with a conference co-organised with the Geneva Graduate Institute Global Health Centre. This event was intended to reflect on the lessons learned from 20 years of multilateralism and fighting HIV, TB and malaria to be better prepared for future pandemics and health threats. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed multiple flaws in existing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response mechanisms that need to be addressed to bring about the transformation of the global health landscape and reduce health inequalities and economic vulnerability in the global community. Discussions focused on key topics: strengthening national health systems, financing health at the country and international levels, reshaping the global health architecture with due regard for the pivotal role of the Global Fund as it launches its new strategy for 2023 – 2028 and prepares for its 7th replenishment.

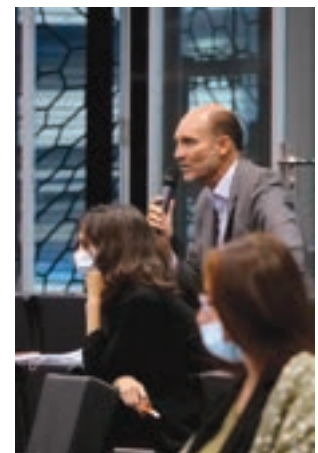
What are the major achievements of Friends of the GF Europe that you wanted to acknowledge ?

Friends Europe's support for the Global Fund is built on three advocacy pillars: 1- Analysing development and global health policies of EU countries and institutions to identify and anticipate factors that may influence political and

financial support for global health and the Global Fund, 2- Understanding the positioning of health organisations, as well as their relative efficiency and evolution, sincere and evidence-based narratives and communication actions. The main contribution of Friends Europe's activities can be seen in Europe's sustained and growing financial investment in the Global Fund. Many events and communication initiatives could be mentioned as important milestones towards the goal, but one of the most effective achievements for the Global Fund's financing is the consistent investment of Friends Europe in creating spaces for deliberation among decision-makers, parliamentarians, experts and global health partners. It strengthens long-standing relationships, awareness and sharing of information and reflections regarding the consequences of decisions on critical topics at the right time.

What were your key messages in the context of this celebration?

The Global Fund has demonstrated its ability to have a lasting impact on the path of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and to save the lives of affected people. Its multilateral model based on a number of guiding principles – partnerships, country ownership, quality demand, inclusiveness and integrated services, human rights and gender approaches, accountability and transparency – has proven its efficiency. This approach must be safeguarded to honour the commitment to end the three diseases, and expanded to help strengthen health systems and be better prepared to respond to future pandemics and health threats. It also showed its flexibility and responsiveness in supporting implementing countries during the Covid-19 crisis. The Global Fund's partnership approach – from communities to national governments, private-sector and international organisations – is a critical asset to rise to future global health challenges by building on synergies and improved coordination. The Global Fund is the best instrument we have to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and to ensure we have the tools to face emerging challenges in the realm of global health. It must be fully funded to implement its new strategy and continue transforming the global health landscape through its partnership. ■



Celebration of Friends Europe's 15th anniversary, September 2021.



Picture taken during the celebration of Friends Europe's 15th anniversary, September 2021. Young woman in front of a wall, Global Health Center, Geneva.

FOCUS ON: THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Board on strategy, providing expertise and making recommendations to the Board in the field of public policy and science related to global health and development, with a particular focus on the policies of European states and institutions.

This Committee is composed of European experts in public policy and global health, or any other field of expertise relevant to the association's advocacy activities.

Three questions on tuberculosis and the global health landscape

Beatrijs Stickers, Policy and Strategy Advisor, Board Secretary of the Dutch Foundation KNCV in the Netherlands and member of Friends of the Global Fund Europe's Advisory Committee

You are both a tuberculosis (TB) programme expert and the former chair of the Global Fund's Audit and Finance Committee. Why is this expertise important for Friends of the Global Fund Europe and its mission?

TB expertise is relevant in several ways: awareness of TB as the deadliest amongst the infectious diseases after Covid-19 and awareness of the acute need for TB funding informs the discussions in the Board of Friends of the Global Fund Europe. TB programme insights provide a distinct perspective on the role of the Global Fund in strengthening health systems and fighting on-going and emerging pandemics. Like the fight against HIV and malaria, the fight against TB is embedded in a health and community systems approach. Moreover, addressing TB, and particularly drug resistant forms of TB, relies heavily on health systems infrastructure including interlinked diagnostic laboratory systems at

various levels of the health system. TB programme insights add additional perspectives and diversity, also in the area of pandemic response.

Building on my involvement in the Audit and Finance Committee of the Global Fund Board, I bring an updated perspective on the Global Funds' grant and operations to the deliberations of the Friends of The Global Fund Europe.

You live and work in the Netherlands, where you are part of the Global Fund and global health advocacy community. How do you relate to the pan-European vision of Friends Europe?

The Pan-European vision of Friends Europe is tremendously enriching for me as an advocate in the Dutch global health community. The commitment of European G7 governments is the backbone for the Global Fund movement. The Netherlands has ranked amongst the staunchest supporters of the Global Fund since the early days. The sense of a strong and joint European shaping of the fundamental values of the Global Fund in multi-lateral engagement is important to uphold. The Netherlands has successfully advocated fully embedding human rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Global Fund's approach. A strong European voice has emerged on these principles and its influence reaches beyond the the Global Fund.

The global health landscape has been evolving rapidly since the start of the Covid-19 crisis. How has the Advisory Committee helped the Board to anticipate, and adapt to, these changes in 2021?

Pinpointing the distinctive role of the Global Fund in the evolving global health landscape has been a central theme of the joint discussions of the Advisory Committee and Board. Discussion themes included anchoring the foundational mission of the fight against the existing pandemics, HIV, TB and Malaria, in the Covid-19 driven pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) and vice versa.

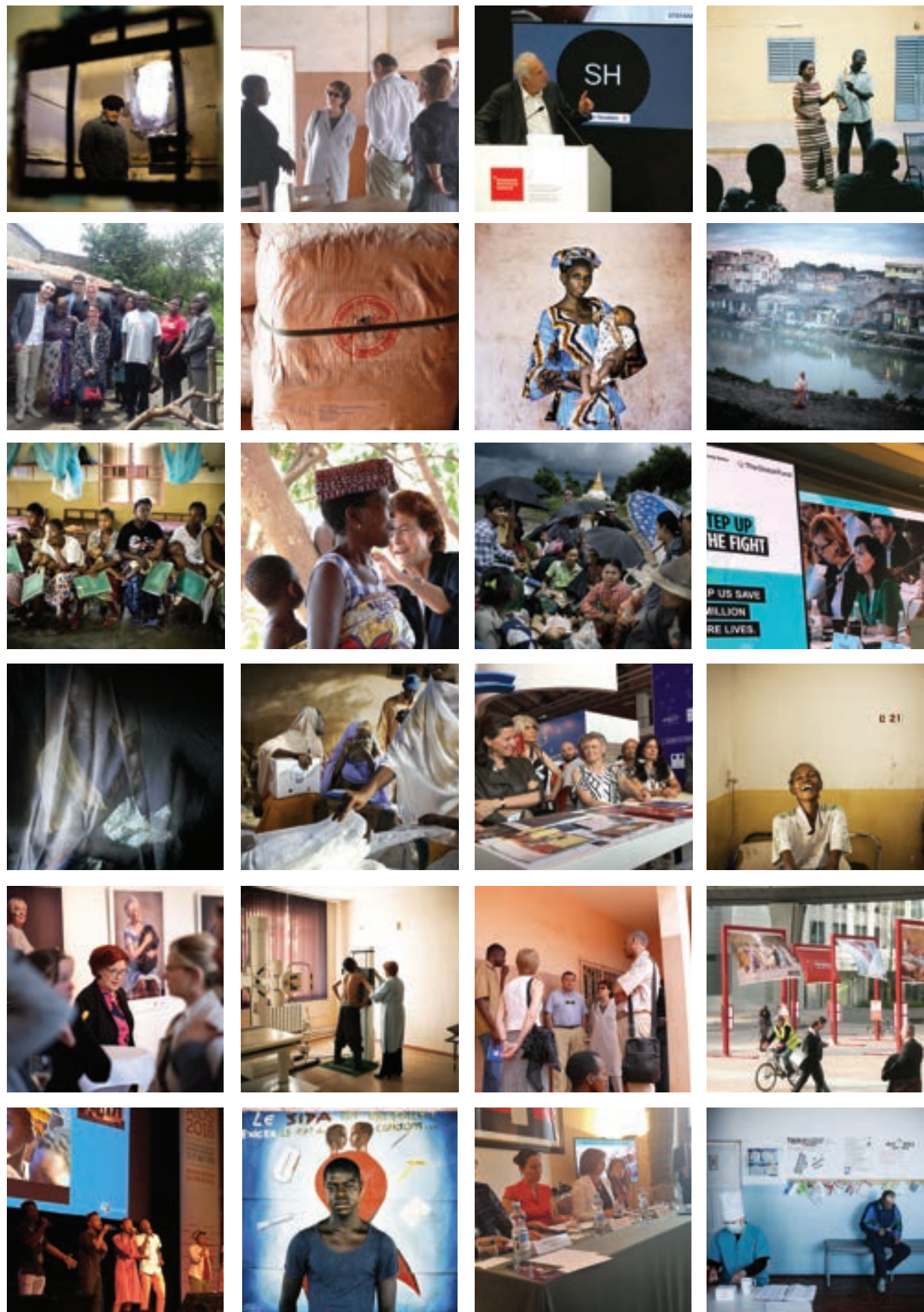
Members of the Advisory Committee play a highly valued role in informing and connecting the deliberations on Global Fund strategic directions and advocacy to the broader Global Health context. The WHO Euro's Pan-European Commission on Health & Sustainable Development report 'Drawing light from the pandemic' provided an accessible evidence base for assessing and exploring Global Fund policy directions. Recent editorials in *The Lancet* always provide a stimulating background for the discussions in the Board and Advisory Committee. ■



How the Advisory Committee helped

The first Advisory Committee of 2021 was held on 11 June and was dedicated to the "One Health" approach. The second Advisory Committee meeting of 2021 was held on 10 December and centred on the new Global Fund strategy with a focus on the role of communities. Following the Board discussion on Prevention and pandemic preparedness at its 10 December meeting, a joint call of the Advisory Committee and the Board was organised on 21 December.





GOVERNANCE 2021

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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former Senior Advisor to
the President of the French Republic
on multilateral/G8 matters

**Vice-president in charge of European
Institutions, of Belgium and Luxembourg:**
Charles GOERENS,
former Minister of Cooperation
in Luxembourg, Member of
the European Parliament

Vice-president in charge of Italy:
Stefano VELLA,
Adjunct Professor, Global Health,
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

Vice-president in charge of Germany:
Heidemarie WIECZOREK-ZEUL,
former Minister of Cooperation
and Economic Development in Germany

Treasurer: Mr Louis-Charles VIOSSAT,
former French Ambassador
in charge of AIDS and other
contagious diseases

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and former Chair of Friends Europe

Christoph BENN,
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Patrice DEBRÉ,
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MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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United Kingdom

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Board Secretary of the Dutch
Foundation KNCV, Netherlands

Timo ULRICHS,
Microbiologist and immunologist
specialised in tuberculosis,
founder of the Koch-Metchnikov Forum,
Germany

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FUND EUROPE

Friends of the Global Fund Europe is an independent not-for-profit organisation founded in April 2005, under the high patronage of the President of the French Republic, to engage with Europe's political and institutional decision-makers, public opinion, the media, civil society organisations and the private sector with the aim to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and more specifically to mobilise support for the Global Fund. Its actions aim at raising public awareness of global health issues, and specifically of the three epidemics. Its work includes political advocacy to support investment of the international community in the Global Fund and in the programmes it supports, with the ultimate objective of eradicating three of the most devastating pandemics affecting developing countries.

Our objectives

Raising awareness of governments, policymakers, civil society, public opinion and the media as regards challenges in combating the three pandemics globally, and in terms of their contribution to global health;

- Informing stakeholders on the strategy, action and results reached by the Global Fund, as well as on its funding sources and contribution to the fight against the three epidemics, and to reinforcing health systems;
- Supporting and increasing financial resources dedicated to fighting the three pandemics, through the Global Fund in particular, and promoting innovative funding for development and global health;

- Mobilising public- and private-sector stakeholders as well as encouraging the development of public – private partnerships in favour of global health and in the fight against the three pandemics.

Our principles and values

Friends Europe shares the founding values of the Global Fund: a partnership focusing on performance and the quality of results, accountable advocacy, equity and transparency in all its operations.

Partnership

Our actions concentrate on the fight against the three diseases and on the work of the Global Fund, both of which are part of the global health debate, and on the need to strengthen national health systems. They involve interested public or private partners from the political sphere or civil society, regardless of their methods of intervention in the field of public health.

Performance and quality of results

Our actions range from research to programme implementation and evaluation and aim at clearly identifying the various issues in the fight against the three pandemics, and the roles of international organisations and their partners in this endeavour, and more generally in favour of global health.

Accountable advocacy

Our actions involve all partners to encourage the expression of their ideas and opinions on the fight against the three pandemics and to foster debate and confrontations that have beneficial effects on the conception and implementation of innovative actions in favour of the fight against the three diseases.

Equity and transparency

Our actions promote access to treatments, access to care for the most vulnerable people, including women and children, and more generally a rights-based approach. They also intend to demonstrate the impact of actions against the three pandemics in terms of reinforcing community-based and health systems, governance structures, as well as their positive social outcomes on education, the economic well-being of individuals and families, the private sector and national economies at large, but also as regards gender equality, capacity-strengthening for women and the protection and security of populations. ■



The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Created in 2002, the Global Fund, which succeeded the Therapeutic Solidarity Fund created by President Jacques Chirac in 1997, is a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and people affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria that channels international resources to invest strategically in programmes to end the three epidemics and strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

Since its inception, programmes supported by the Global Fund partnership have saved more than 44 million lives and reduced deaths from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 46 percent. The Global Fund raises and invests more than €3.6 billion annually in country-led programmes in more than 120 countries, while ensuring that the programmes it finances are linked to national health programs.

