



All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS
House of Lords
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The Rt Boris Johnson MP Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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Dear Prime Minister,

As the Government prepares for this year's 47th G7 Summit, it will be essential to ensure that G7 leaders give serious consideration to the additional investments that are needed to accelerate the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and the reopening of economies across the globe. We are writing to urge that Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, be included in the G7 process given the leading role the Global Fund is playing to support pandemic response in low and middle-income countries.

According to a recent study in the medical journal *The Lancet*, over one-third of the Global Fund's work supports global health security by helping countries prepare for, detect and respond to public health emergencies through funding of laboratory systems, fighting antimicrobial resistance, and the deployment of medical countermeasures and personnel. As a result, the Global Fund is the world's largest investor in grants for strengthening systems for health, investing more than US\$1 billion a year. Most low and middle-income countries based their COVID-19 responses on the laboratory, disease surveillance, community networks and supply chains that were created to fight HIV, TB and malaria. A global roll-out of COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines will continue to require properly trained and equipped health workers, strong health facilities and laboratories, effective supply chains and data systems, and community leadership. No other organization is better positioned to make these important investments more quickly, more efficiently or more effectively.

In 2020, the Global Fund swiftly allocated US\$980 million to 106 countries and 14 multi-country programs to reinforce national COVID-19 responses; mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on lifesaving HIV, TB, and malaria programs; and make crucial

improvements to health and community systems. However, all available funds for this purpose have now been fully deployed and urgent needs remain. Unfunded country requests for support currently amount to over US\$313 million for needs including personal protective equipment, testing and treatment. These needs continue to grow as the pandemic worsens.

While sadly nearly 2.2 million people have already died worldwide from COVID-19, approximately 2.5 million people still die every year from AIDS, TB and malaria despite enormous progress the past two decades. COVID-19 threatens to reverse that progress and increase deaths, with nearly 75 percent of lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs having been disrupted. TB testing has plummeted, leaving people with TB untreated and unknowingly spreading the disease to others. School closures due to lockdowns put adolescent girls and young women at increased risk of early pregnancy, gender-based violence, and HIV. Mosquito net distribution campaigns have been delayed or cancelled, and fewer people have been going to clinics to be tested and treated for malaria. If included on the G7 agenda, Mr. Sands will be able to share a clear assessment of the investments needed to maximize impact against COVID-19 whilst mitigating the knock-on impacts that threaten hard won gains against the world's other most deadly infectious diseases.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The Members of the APPGs on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria & Neglected Tropical Diseases look forward to working with you and your Cabinet to ensure a successful G7 presidency that strengthens health and well-being for all.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Barker – Vice Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group HIV/AIDS

Baron Black of Brentwood – Vice Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group HIV/AIDS

Catherine West MP – Chair - The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE PC – Co-Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

Virendra Sharma MP – Co-Chair - All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis