

Friends Monthly Reports – November 2023

Friends Europe (FoFGFE) – Highlights

- France: Special issue and digital event on global health and multilateralism, in partnership with the newspaper L'Opinion, on the eve of the Paris Peace Forum (Nov 9), with the participation of SE Zacharopoulou who recalled France's long-term commitment to the GF, and the GF's impact and extraordinary field work. Launch of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics project. At the end of the month, another Op-Ed was published in L'Opinion ahead of World AIDS Day - [«La fin du sida est possible et, si le monde s'en donne les moyens, elle sera proche» - L'Opinion \(lopinion.fr\)](#).
- EU-Lux-Bel: Participation in the EU One Health Conference (Lux), and in the Global Health Forum (EU). Preparatory work ahead of the European elections, and of the EU Belgian presidency. Meeting with the advisor to the Commissioner for Equality in charge of antidiscrimination (Nov 21)
- Ongoing research on the Research work on the articulation between the Pandemic Fund and the Global Fund, and monitoring of the GF/climate-health nexus ahead of COP28.
- Italy: Preparation of a parliamentary event on Dec 6th; monitoring of the Italy-Africa summit (Jan-Feb 24), and of the Italian G7 Presidency with outreach to stakeholders (sherpa, MOFA, MOH, Min. Fin).

Friends Japan – Highlights:

- Cabinet decision with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) each allocating US\$120,728,467 to the GF in an economic stimulus package approved in early November. With this amount, a total of 52% of Japan's 7th Replenishment pledge will have been converted.
- As Japan begins to revise its HIV response policy, FGfJ has been building a multi-level advocacy approach around World AIDS Day to the ministries, parliamentarians, and public.
- On/around World AIDS Day, development of a Diet Task Force and Advisory Board meeting, event to launch The Inheritance play, and coordination of interviews across three media outlets on the occasion of Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim's visit to Japan. FGfJ, with the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and the Japan Society for AIDS Research (JSAR), also coordinated a special lecture to young Japanese researchers featuring both Dr. Karims and with JCIE on the GF's and Dr. Karim Salim's participation in a dialogue reflecting on G7 global health priorities.

Friends US – Highlights:

- Congress avoided another government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution (CR) two days before the funding expired on November 17th. The new stopgap bill extends government funding to next year, splitting the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills into two deadlines--January 19th and February 2nd.
- The GF and other global health-related line items included in the State and Foreign Operations bill is part of the 2nd tranche. Under both a CR and a likely final funding bill, robust GF resources consistent with match requirements look secure.
- PEPFAR reauthorization is still a major concern as negotiations have been pushed back to January 2024.
- On Oct. 31, Sands met with Executive Branch officials and key Congressional supporters, incl. the development, humanitarian and health policy senior director P. Tufro at the National Security Council, Amb. Nkengasong and Gayle Smith, outgoing CEO of the ONE Campaign. Meetings were secured with the Democratic staff of the House SFOPS subcommittee and the staff of Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL).
- Former Congresswoman M. Roby met with various Republican appropriator representatives highlighting her experience supporting the GF and conservative reasons to continue support for global health programs.
- Friends published [The Global Fund's Unique Contribution to Universal Health Coverage and Stronger Health Systems](#) report and promoted it through a targeted paid campaign on LinkedIn, securing over 14,000 impressions and driving traffic to the report webpage, which has now been viewed over 700 times.

Friends of the Global Fund EUROPE– Monthly Update – November 2023



Major activities:

- France: special issue and digital event on global health and multilateralism, in partnership with the newspaper l'Opinion, on the eve of the Paris Peace Forum (Nov 9)
- Pan-Europe: Global Fund 50th Board Meeting and All Friends retreat (Geneva Nov 13 – 17)
- Paris Olympics and Paralympics project launch

Upcoming events and activities

- Communications on World Aids day, including an event at the Italian Parliament on pediatrics HIV (Dec 6)
- Preparation of our workplan for 2024
- Friends Europe Board and advisory committee meeting (Dec 22)

1- STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

Pan-European activities:

- Monitoring donor's and CSO dynamics around the FGHI report
- Research work on the articulation between the Pandemic Fund and the Global Fund (continued)
- Monitoring of the COP28 and the developments around the Health/Climate nexus

France:

- Media operations on the margins of the Paris Peace forum in partnership with the daily newspaper l'Opinion (Nov 9) : special issue + digital event
- Preparatory works for the Paris 2024 Malaria Team project

Paris olympics and paralympics:

- Onboarding of the consultant in charge of the coordination of the project
- Call for proposals to a short list of communication agencies, for the comms pillar of the project.
- Meeting with the Director General for international relations at the Paris City Hall (Nov 9)

Germany:

- Opera Gala in Berlin: participation to the organization of the award ceremony and of the travels of the awards winner (Nov 6)
- Preparation of a mailing for World Aids day

EU-Lux-Bel:

- Participation in the EU One health conference in Luxembourg (Nov 13)
- Participation in the Global health forum (Nov 20)
- Preparatory works on messages for the European elections (June 2024)
- Preparation of the Belgian presidency of the EU (1st semester 2024)
- Meeting with the advisor to the Commissioner for Equality in charge of antidiscrimination (Nov 21)

Italy:

- Preparation of the parliamentary event on Dec 6th
- Monitoring of the preparation of the Italy – Africa Summit (initially due to take place at the beginning of November, postponed to January or February 2024)

- Monitoring the preparation of the Italian presidency of the G7, stakeholders reach out (G7 sherpa, MOFA, Ministry of health, Ministry of finance)

Spain:

- Monitoring of the formation of a new government (Pedro Sanchez confirmed as the future head of Government on Nov 15)

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Launch of the joint study with the Agency spin interactive on our digital communications strategy

Engagement of decision-makers and official statements on the record

- France: Nov 9, SE Zacharopoulou participated in Friends Europe's event in partnership with l'Opinion, and recalled France's long term commitment to the Global Fund, as well as the Global Fund's impact and extraordinary field work - « la France a un engagement très fort, depuis toujours, avec le Fonds mondial, dont nous sommes le deuxième bailleur. Pour la période 2023 à 2025, le Président de la République a annoncé une contribution de 1,6 milliard pour lutter contre le VIH, le paludisme et la tuberculose. 59 millions de vies ont été sauvées depuis la création du Fonds mondial avec un travail sur le terrain extraordinaire ». [Link](#).

Political context and strategy adaptation

- **Italy** : G7 presidency in preparation
- **Spain** : Pedro Sanchez confirmed as the lead of the future government, which announces a certain continuity of Spain's commitment to Global health and the Global Fund. The formation of the government still needs to be closely monitored.
- **Global:**
 - UNAIDS report to be published on Nov 28
 - World malaria report to be published on Nov 30
 - COP 28 Nov30 – Dec 12, with a day dedicated to health on Dec 3

Friends of the Global Fund JAPAN (FGFJ) – November 2023



Highlights:

As Japan begins to revise its HIV response policy, FGFJ has been building a multi-level advocacy approach around World AIDS Day to the ministries, parliamentarians, and general public. FGFJ has prepared a Diet Task Force and Advisory Board meeting, a World AIDS Day event in commemoration of the launch of The Inheritance play and arranged interviews across three media outlets on the occasion of Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim's visit to Japan alongside GF's Dianne Stewart. FGFJ is also cooperating with the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and the Japan Society for AIDS Research (JSAR) on a special lecture to young Japanese researchers featuring both Dr. Karims and with JCIE on the GF's and Dr. Karim Salim's participation in a dialogue reflecting on G7 global health priorities.

What's Ahead:

- Under "FGFJ Advocacy":
 - Diet Task Force and Advisory Board Meeting (Nov. 30)
 - World AIDS Day Event (Nov. 30)
- Under "Strengthening Communication":
 - *Newsweek Japan's* coverage on WAD event (to be published in mid-Dec.)
 - *Asahi* interview with Motoko Seko (publish date TBC)
 - *Nikkei and NHK* interviews with Dr. Karims around the FGFJ World AIDS Day event (publish date TBC)

Major Activities:

Policy Updates:

- A Cabinet decision has been reached to have the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) each allocate US\$120,728,467 to the GF in an economic stimulus package approved in early November. With this amount, a total of 52% of Japan's 7th Replenishment pledge will have been converted.
- The Government of Japan has begun the process of revising the national HIV response policy, which will be completed by July 2024.
- Dr. Shinsuke Miyano, the deputy director of Global Health Policy and Research at the National Centre for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), was recently appointed as vice-chairman of the GF TRP.

FGFJ Advocacy Updates:

- On November 6, a reunion dinner was held among the participants in the September FGFJ Diet Task Force Site Visit to Vietnam. During the dinner, the Diet members shared their appreciation in further understanding the work of the GF and noted the opportunity to share the lessons learned in a Diet session on domestic public health issues.
 - FGFJ is finalizing both the Japanese and English reports from the site visit and will aim to disseminate the Japanese report among MHLW and MOFA, as well as JICA.
- On November 13, Yasuhisa Shiozaki, former Minister of Health and global health champion, was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his strong leadership in Japan-UK relations. FGFJ quietly coordinated with the GFS to have Peter Sands send a congratulatory letter to Hon. Shiozaki.

- Hon. Shiozaki's son, who is now the parliamentary secretary of MHLW, attended the award ceremony and most likely is aware of Peter's letter, which will help set up the scene for the meeting between him and GF's Dianne Stewart on November 30.
- On November 29, NCGM and the Japan Society for AIDS Research (JSAR) will host a special lecture in cooperation with JCIE and FGFJ. The lecture will feature Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Dr. Salim Karim, who will discuss the lessons learned from HIV and COVID-19 with young Japanese researchers in infectious diseases and virology.
- On November 30, FGFJ will convene a joint Diet Task Force & Advisory Board meeting, featuring Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim, and GF's Dianne Stewart, to discuss the current state of the AIDS fight in Africa and the role of the GF in fighting infectious diseases and strengthening health systems.
- As Japan's HIV policy revisions began this month (noted above under "Policy Updates"), FGFJ invited Jun Sugihara from the MHLW to speak at the November 30 World AIDS Day Event. Mr. Sugihara is leading the HIV policy revision process, and the event will be a good opportunity for Mr. Sugihara to interact with the global HIV response community.
- For JCIE's December 1 Global Health Multistakeholder Dialogue, FGFJ has helped secure GF's Dianne Stewart to speak on a session on more equitable access to MCMs.
 - FGFJ also coordinated with JCIE on Dr. Salim Karim's speaking role in a World AIDS Day reception that will follow.

Strengthening communications/media relations:

- On November 1, *Asahi's withPlanet* published an interview featuring Linda Mafu and her concerns about anti-LGBTQ+ laws that was organized by FGFJ and the GFS (<https://www.asahi.com/withplanet/article/15041723>).
- Dr. Junko Tanuma, who was invited to speak with the delegation during the September Diet Task Force site visit to Vietnam, was interviewed by *Nikkei* on the current state of AIDS across the world and mentioned the GF (<https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXZQOCD090DW0Z01C23A1000000/>).
- On November 21, FGFJ's Satoko Itoh was invited to speak at the press conference for the launch of *The Inheritance* play in Japan. In an article about the press conference, Ms. Itoh was quoted on the relevance of the play as we continue the fight against AIDS globally (<https://natalie.mu/stage/news/550034>).
- FGFJ swiftly disseminated the announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GF and World Bank in Japanese to policymakers and government officials (https://fgfj.jcie.or.jp/news/2023-11-22_climate_and_health/).
- In anticipation for the World AIDS Day event in Tokyo, FGFJ has been approaching various media outlets on both event coverage and separate interviews with event speakers. FGFJ has been able to secure the following:
 - A two-page tie up with *Newsweek* to cover the event.
 - An *Asahi* interview with Motoko Seko.
 - An *NHK* and *Nikkei* interview with both Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim.
- FGFJ is coordinating with the GFS to potentially publish an upcoming op-ed on better financing models in *The Economist Japan*. The op-ed will most likely be published in January 2024.

Opportunities for Collaboration:

- FGFJ utilized the November GF Board Meeting in Geneva to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Friends US and Friends Europe in 2024. FGFJ will continue following up with each Friends organization throughout the end of the year.

Friends of the Global Fund US – November 2023



Introduction

Congress successfully avoided another government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution (CR) two days before the funding expired on November 17th. The new stopgap bill extends government funding to next year, splitting the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills into two deadlines--January 19th and February 2nd. The Global Fund and other global health-related line items included in the State and Foreign Operations bill is part of the second tranche. Under both a CR and a likely final funding bill, robust Global Fund resources consistent with match requirements look secure. PEPFAR reauthorization is still a major concern as negotiations have been pushed back to January 2024.

Upcoming Activities

- We are working with our partners to mount a November 30th Capitol Hill awards ceremony to celebrate World AIDS Day--honoring Senator Graham (R-SC)--and have finalized social media toolkits to send to our congressional champions.
- In the first half of December, we are hosting a thought partnership conversation for our Private Sector Advisory Council with the Global Fund's CFO Adda Faye, and a dialogue for the U.S. advocacy community with Vuyiseka Dubula (the new Community, Rights & Gender chief) and Claudia Ahumada (coordinator of the [Advocacy Roadmap 2023-2025](#))
- We began work on our fiscal year 2025 U.S. investment case.

Major Activities

- On October 31, Peter Sands visited Washington to meet with Executive Branch officials and key Congressional supporters. He met with the development, humanitarian and health policy senior director Paula Tufro at the National Security Council, Amb. John Nkengasong at the State Department and Gayle Smith, outgoing CEO of the ONE Campaign. In addition, we assisted in securing meetings with the Democratic staff of the House SFOPS subcommittee and the staff of Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL). Peter discussed the future of the Global Fund's work on pandemic preparedness, cooperation with the new State Department health security bureau Nkengasong leads and additional resource opportunities for the Global Fund in light of the match requirement.
- Former Congresswoman Martha Roby coordinated meetings on the Hill with Representative Jerry Carl (R-AL), and staff from the office of Ken Buck (R-CO) and Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), and Senator Katie Britt (R-AL)—all appropriators. During the meetings, Martha highlighted her experience in coming to support the Global Fund and conservative reasons to continue support for global health programs.
- Early this month, Friends published [The Global Fund's Unique Contribution to Universal Health Coverage and Stronger Health Systems](#) report. This report is a comprehensive analysis of the Global Fund's role in building the critical systems needed to achieve UHC. It dives into the Global Fund's work in 10 distinct areas of health systems, demonstrating its importance to advancing UHC. We promoted it through a targeted paid campaign on LinkedIn, securing over 14,000 impressions and driving traffic to the report webpage, which has now been viewed over 700 times.
- To build more conservative, faith-based support for PEPFAR reauthorization, we worked with Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero to ghost write and place the op-ed "If Congress doesn't reauthorize PEPFAR, children's lives will be at risk from HIV" in the [Miami Herald](#). The op-ed was prominently featured in the Sunday print edition.

Collaboration

- Along with the rest of the Friends Network, Mark and Chris attended the Global Fund board meeting earlier this month. Nearly 80 copies of the UHC report (aligned with Friends -Japan and - Europe) were taken by participants. The meeting focused on success on TB, challenges on malaria, health system strengthening funded by repurposed COVID-19 Response Mechanism resources, and the impacts of climate change on malaria and other diseases response.
- Following the board meeting, the Fund for the Global Fund, Friends Europe, Friends Japan and officers of the Gates Foundation met to align our strategic plans for the renewed 3-year grant for the Friends Network. The Gates Foundation assessment of the Friends Network among its 431 advocacy grants was welcome feedback. The Friends organizations also had detailed meetings with Global Fund point persons on pandemic preparedness, health finance, climate impact on health, and communications.

Change of Circumstances

- This month, Representative Kay Granger (R-TX), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, announced she will not seek reelection next year. Rep. Granger is a long-time champion of the Global Fund, along with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), who will leave the House following her run for the open California Senate seat. The loss of these two champions has re-emphasized the importance of cultivating new champions to whom Reps. Granger and Lee can pass the baton. We have outlined detailed goals in our Strategic Plan for 2024 to expand member education and the number of champions we have on the Hill.