

Friends Monthly Reports – October 2023

Friends Europe (FoFGFE) – Highlights

- Germany/Pan-European level: Friends Europe organised a pre-day ahead of the WHS, to gather civil society and MPs ([link](#)), and is supporting the organisation of an award ceremony at the Berlin Opera on 6 Nov.
- France: Meeting with the ELCP (malaria group of elected officials) and the GF with French MPs, as well as coordination of a visit to the GF by French CSO partners, participation in the launch of the French Global Health Strategy ([link](#)). Friends Europe is also preparing for its suite of events/publications around the Paris Peace Forum (early Nov. 2023).
- In the EU/EC, Friends Europe and the GF organised a high-level informal lunch on the sides of the Global Gateway, with Peter Sands and about 12 people. More information about health at the Global Gateway [here](#).
- Italy: Preparation of a Parliamentary event on 6 Dec, and monitoring of the Italy-Africa Summit (postponed to Jan-Feb 2024). Preparation ahead of Italy's G7 Presidency, including outreach to stakeholders (sherpas, MOFA, etc.).
- Spain: Many interactions with Spanish decision makers on the side of the WHS and of the EU/Spain informal lunch. Excellent contacts to be leveraged in the future, though challenging in the short term due to the current political uncertainty in the country.

Friends Japan – Highlights:

- PM Kishida announced plans for the FY2023 supplementary budget which will be submitted to the Diet session at the end of October. A portion of the funding to the GF is likely to be included.
- On Oct. 1, the Japan GF Board member from MOFA changed from Keiichi Hara to Toshihiro Kitamura, who has previously participated in JCIE events. FGFJ's Director, Isao Kano, and Assistant Director, Satoko Itoh, met with him on Oct. 25 to brief him on FGFJ's activities and role and he agreed to give the welcome remarks for the World AIDS Day event on Nov.30.
- Following the Sept. Diet Task Force Site Visit to Vietnam, FGFJ is compiling a 30-page report in Japanese to share with key stakeholders, proposing that Japan recognizes the GF's significant role in supporting Vietnam's health insurance, the continued funding of the GF, greater collaboration between JICA and the GF.
- A joint FGFJ Diet Task Force and Advisory Board meeting will be held on the morning of Nov. 30, prior to the World AIDS Day Event that FGFJ is preparing, and which will include three sessions covering HIV and LGBTQ+ issues at the national and international levels.
- FGFJ helped set up a meeting between JCIE staff member in charge of the Dec. 1 event and Friends Europe to discuss ways to synergize on the G7 global health advocacy as the presidency shifts from Japan to Italy.

Friends US – Highlights:

- Continued push for a clean, five-year reauthorization of PEPFAR to be added to an end-of-year omnibus spending package or continuing resolution, with the goal of avoiding contentious committee markup.
- Friends co-published the report [Integrated Person-Centered Health Services: Translating Learnings from the HIV Response to Pave the Way to Universal Health Coverage](#) with PATH and JSI, identifying key lessons learned from the HIV response and offering recommendations to advance health services which empower communities.
- Friends co-hosts an October 30 event in San Francisco to honor the leadership of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi against HIV/AIDS and for global health.
- Friends placed an op-ed by former Botswana President Festus Mogae and former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson in [the Hill](#).
- With the ONE Campaign and RESULTS, Friends sent a letter to the two U.S. representatives on the Pandemic Fund's board urging for greater coordination, as the PF has not yet found a way to accommodate the GF's operational modalities.

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



Major activities:

- Pan-Europe / Germany : Engagement activities for CSO leaders and MP's before and during the WHS Summit in Berlin (Oct. 14 – Oct. 17)
- France: coordination of a CSO's visit to the Global Fund in Geneva
- EU / Spain: informal high-level lunch on the sidelines of the Global Gateway Forum – Oct26

Upcoming events and activities

- France : special issue and virtual event on Global health and multilateralism, in partnership with the newspaper l'Opinion, on the eve of the Paris Peace Forum (Nov 9)
- Global Fund's 50th Board meeting (Nov 14 – 16)
- All friends retreat (Nov 16 – 17)

1- STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

▪ PAN-EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES:

- Monitoring donor's and CSO dynamics around the FGHI report
- Preparation of the 50th Board meeting of the Global Fund
- Preparation to the All Friends retreat
- Research work on the articulation between the Pandemic Fund and the Global Fund

▪ FRANCE:

- Joint meeting with ELCP (malaria) and the Global Fund with French MP's – Oct3
- Coordination and organization of a visit to the Global Fund's secretariat in Geneva for French CSO partners -Oct 17 - 18
- Participation to the launching event of the new French Global health strategy (Oct 12) – ([link](#)).
- Preparation of an event on the margins of the Paris Peace forum in partnership with the daily newspaper l'Opinion (Nov 9)
- Preparatory works for the Paris 2024 Malaria Team project

▪ 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:

- EU/Spain high level informal lunch on the sidelines of the Global Gateway (Oct 26)
- Preparatory works on messages for the European elections (June 2024)
- Preparation of the Belgian presidency of the EU (1st semester 2024)

▪ ITALY:

- Preparation of a 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
 - Many interactions with Spanish decision makers within the framework of the WHS and of the EU/Spain informal lunch. Excellent contacts to be leveraged in the future, though few participation on the short term due to the current political uncertainty in the country.

- **Engagement of decision-makers and official statements on the record**
 - Publication of the new French Global health strategy (Oct 12)

- **Political context and strategy adaptation**
 - **Italy** : Italy / Africa Summit initially planned for the beginning of November, postponed to end of January / February 2024
 - **Spain** : On going negotiations for the formation of a government led by the current Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. Deadline on Nov 27.

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



Highlights:

As FGFJ continues to do follow-up work on the September Diet Task Force Site visit to Vietnam and the joint Friends UNGA side event. We have also been preparing for our World AIDS Day event on November 30. The event will take place alongside the release of the Japanese production of “*The Inheritance*,” a play that tells the story of three generations of gay people struggling with HIV. FGFJ is also coordinating the participation of the Global Fund representatives at JCIE’s Global Health Multistakeholder Dialogue on the G7’s global health commitments that is happening the day after.

What’s Ahead:

- Under “FGFJ Advocacy”:
 - Diet Task Force and Advisory Board Meeting (Nov. 30)
 - World AIDS Day Event (Nov. 30; Announcement scheduled for October 31)
- Under “Strengthening Communication”:
 - Asahi’s *withPlanet* interview featuring Linda Mafu (soon)
 - FGFJ at the press briefing of “The Inheritance” (Nov. 21)
 - *Nikkei* interview of Dr Junko Tanuma (end of Nov.)
 - *Newsweek Japan*’s coverage on WAD event (to be published in mid-Dec.)

Major Activities:

Policy Updates:

- PM Kishida announced plans for the FY2023 supplementary budget which will be submitted to the Diet session at the end of October. A portion of the funding to the Global Fund (GF) is likely to be included.
- On October 1, the Japan GF Board member from MOFA has changed from Keiichi Hara to Toshihiro Kitamura. Mr. Kitamura was in charge of the revision of the Japanese Development Cooperation Charter and climate change issues and has previously participated in JCIE events. FGFJ’s Director, Isao Kano, and Assistant Director, Satoko Itoh, met with Mr. Kitamura on October 25 to brief him on FGFJ’s activities and its role in supporting Japan’s long-standing partnership with the GF. Mr. Kitamura agreed to give the welcome remarks for the World AIDS Day event on Nov.30.

FGFJ Advocacy Updates:

- Following the September Diet Task Force Site Visit to Vietnam, FGFJ is compiling a 30-page report in Japanese to share with key stakeholders, ministries, and policymakers. In the report, FGFJ proposed Japan recognize the GF’s significant role in supporting Vietnam’s health insurance, the continued funding of the GF, and greater collaboration between JICA and the GF.
- A joint FGFJ Diet Task Force and Advisory Board meeting will be held welcoming the two Drs. Karim on the morning of Nov. 30 (prior to the WAD event mentioned below). Since they are globally recognized HIV and COVID epidemiologist who received the Noguchi Hideyo Award from the Japanese government last year, there are great attention from the government and academia and helps us raise the profile of the Global Fund.
- World AIDS Day Event: FGFJ is preparing an event on November 30 which will include three sessions covering HIV and LGBTQ+ issues at the national and international levels.
 - FGFJ received support from the Friends US to successfully invite Dr. Quarraisha Karim as a guest speaker for the second session, which will highlight HIV and gender issues in South Africa. FGFJ is also helping coordinate the visit program for both Dr. Quarraisha

and Dr. Salim Karim, asking the Japanese Society on AIDS Research and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) to arrange a seminar for young scholars in the field of HIV/AIDS research.

- FGFJ successfully onboarded Ms. Ayano Kunimitsu, a member of the House of Representatives (ruling LDP) to the FGFJ Diet Task Force. She has a medical degree and has worked at the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare. She also studied public health at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and has a strong interest in infectious diseases and development issues, especially medical support to Africa.
- FGFJ provided some key data to the GFS as they put together for the bi-annual report that will be submitted to Japan ahead of the GF's 50th Board meeting.
- JCIE's Global Health program is coordinating a Global Health Multistakeholder Dialogue on December 1 to discuss how we can ensure that the global health commitments from the Hiroshima G7 meetings are implemented and successfully transitioned to the Italian presidency of the 2024 G7. FGFJ is facilitating the GF's presence in this event as well as Dr. Salim Karim's participation.

Strengthening communications/media relations:

- FGFJ has coordinated with GFS and a journalist from Asahi Shimbun's online platform, *withPlanet* to release an interview featuring Linda Mafu on Uganda's anti-LGBTQ+ law. It is in the editing process and to be published soon.
- FGFJ will take part in the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre's press conference to announce the launch of the Japanese production of "The Inheritance" to be held on November 21st.
- FGFJ has partnered with the media outlet *Newsweek* to cover the World AIDS Day event online and in print through a two-page tie-up. The content and messaging of the article is currently being discussed with the contacts at *Newsweek*, possibly incorporating a few individual interviews with key spokespersons at the event.
 - We are also currently compiling a list of media contacts to invite to the Nov. 30 event to raise the profile of the Global Fund and recognition of the continued need to support the fight against HIV/AIDS.
 - FGFJ is also discussing a potential interview featuring Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim with *Nikkei*, that would be released in mid-December.
- FGFJ is coordinating a *Nikkei* interview with Dr. Junko Tanuma, an HIV specialist who joined our parliamentary trip to Vietnam in September. The interview is scheduled to be published at the end of November.

Opportunities for Collaboration:

- FGFJ helped set up a meeting between JCIE staff member in charge of the December 1 event and Friends Europe to discuss ways to synergize on the G7 global health advocacy as the presidency shifts from Japan to Italy.

Friends of the Global Fund US – October 2023



Introduction

This month, Congress was mired in gridlock following the extended machinations to change House Republican leadership. With the selection of a new speaker, we expect the House to begin moving forward on funding bills for FY24 (already having passed that including the Global Fund). As House-Senate negotiations begin on year-end funding bills, the Global Fund is in a strong position to receive the highest contribution possible under the match provision in U.S. law. We have continued to work to move forward PEPFAR reauthorization, building our engagement with the Hill and key partner organizations. We also published a report on integrated person-center health services and put finishing touches on one on universal health coverage, emphasizing the Global Fund's contribution to both.

Upcoming Activities

- We continue to press for and expect negotiations for an omnibus spending bill (or a few bundles of bills) and possible inclusion of reauthorization of PEPFAR in year-end funding bills.
- We are preparing to attend the November Global Fund Board meeting in Geneva. Following the board meeting, we look forward to joining the retreat on planning for the Friends Network.
- In advance of World AIDS Day, we are working with our partners to plan a Capitol Hill awards ceremony and will disseminate social media toolkits to congressional champions.

Major Activities

- Friends continues to collaborate with our partners to push for a clean, five-year reauthorization of PEPFAR to be added to an end-of-year omnibus spending package or continuing resolution. We met with key Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff to discuss possible Republican co-sponsors for a Senate introduction. The goal of introduced bills in both chambers would be to avoid contentious committee markup but have in place an indicator of congressional support that could be included in an end-of-year omnibus or must-pass package. We also signed a [letter](#) organized by the Bush Center calling on Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR.
- In early October, Friends co-published the report [Integrated Person-Centered Health Services: Translating Learnings from the HIV Response to Pave the Way to Universal Health Coverage](#) with PATH and JSI. The report identifies key lessons learned from the HIV response and offers recommendations to advance health services which empower communities and “people to take charge of their own health rather than being passive recipients of care.” It concludes with an action plan highlighting critical next steps needed to scale integrated person-centered health services. We also finalized content and developed new graphics for our longer UHC report, which will be published in early November and shared at the Global Fund board meeting. The UHC report builds off of our issues brief that was published in September.
- Friends co-hosts an October 30 event in San Francisco to honor the leadership of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi against HIV/AIDS and for global health. While in the Bay Area, we arranged a dinner and meetings with tech innovators and other companies to involve them in our Private Sector Advisory Council, advocacy and thought leadership efforts.
- We placed an op-ed by former Botswana President Festus Mogae and former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson in [the Hill](#). The article examines how PEPFAR played a vital and transformative role in Botswana's uphill battle against HIV. The article has performed very well on social media, receiving 17 re-tweets, over 7,200 views and was [quote-tweeted](#) by Winnie Byanyima.

- Along with the ONE Campaign and RESULTS, we sent a [letter](#) to the two U.S. representatives on the Pandemic Fund's board: Deputy Secretary of State for Resources and Management Richard Verma and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Eric Meyer. The letter urged greater coordination, as the Pandemic Fund has not yet found a way to accommodate the Global Fund's operational modalities. We met with Verma's lieutenant, Director of Foreign Assistance Tamara Wittes on the letter and global health investments generally.

Collaboration

- We look forward to meeting with Fund for the Global Fund, Friends Europe, Friends Japan and representatives from the Gates Foundation to discuss our strategic plans for the renewed 3-year grant for the Friends Network, and engage and advocate to the Global Fund Secretariat on its positioning ahead of the 8th Replenishment.

Change of Circumstances

- In early October, the House moved to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his leadership position and spent 22 days without a speaker. The new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, is likely to pivot the chamber farther right, which could make it more difficult to pass funding bills. (Johnson opposes aid to Ukraine, and is not a supporter of LGBTQ+ rights). As the House and Senate leadership of both parties begin negotiations with the White House on year-end funding bills, we continue to push for maximum funding for the Global Fund and a clean, five-year reauthorization of PEPFAR.