

## **Friends Monthly Reports – September 2023**

### **Friends Europe (FoFGFE) – Highlights**

- All Friends event on the sidelines of the UNGA / HLM's– Sept 19
- Communication activities following the publication of the Global Fund's 2023 result report.
- Friends Europe's team retreat in Paris (sept 28 – 29)
- Upcoming events and activities
  - o Pan Europe / Germany: Preparatory conference on the sidelines of the World Health Summit
  - o France: Coordination of CSOs' visit to the Global Fund in Geneva, Oct 17th-18<sup>th</sup> & Preparation of an event and media around the Paris Peace Forum (Nov) & Joint meeting with ELCP / Global Fund / French MP's / French Amb. For Global Health on Malaria (Oct 3)
  - o EU-LUX-BEL: Preparation of a EU/Spain side event at the European parliament on the sidelines of the Global Gateway ("new" European Development Days) (Oct 25)
  - o IT: Preparation of a meeting between the GF + G7 Sherpa
- Policy Updates: Draft French Budget bill for 2024 shows a drift vs the trajectory towards 0.7% in 2025. Increased tensions between France and Sahel countries. Italy: Italy – Africa Summit planned for the beginning of November – Letter sent to MOFA.

### **Friends Japan – Highlights:**

- Cabinet reshuffle that included Hon. Keizo Takemi's appointment as the Health Minister
- Focus on cultivating increased policymaker support for the GF through a 3-day site visit in Vietnam with 4 Diet members, which was very successful with 2 new members joining the task force. During the week, four diet members posted more than twenty messages on X (formerly known as Twitter) as well as a few blog posts. On September 15, Co-Chair Aisawa released a newsletter blog post to his network reflecting on the site visit and the Global Fund's essential role in supporting Vietnam's health system. Co-Chair Aisawa is planning to release a second blog post soon focusing on HIV/AIDS.
- FGFJ collaborated with Friends Europe and Friends US and steered the successful organization of a high-level panel discussion connecting the UNHLMs and how the GF and ATM fight contributes to health system strengthening, attended by 100 people and with about 230 views online.
- The Cabinet Secretariat publicly released an English-language informational video on Japan's global health strategy developed last year, incl. commentary from two leaders of international organizations, the GF's Peter Sands and the WB's Juan Pablo Uribe. ([link](#))

### **Friends US – Highlights:**

- The House leadership brought the FY24 SFOPS bill to the floor, passing with a full \$2 billion for the GF. The GF is still in a strong position to achieve financing consistent with maximum allowable under the match.
- Chris Collins had positive conversations this month with House SFOPS Chair Mario Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Rep. Barbara Lee regarding the support for the GF. Next month, we will continue to build more champions, including other subcommittee Republicans and Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY).
- Unamended 5-year PEPFAR reauthorization remains a top priority with signs of hope as supporters mobilize.
- AT UNGA, in addition to engaging in the HLMs themselves, Friends U.S. collaborated with Friends Europe and Friends Japan to organise the joint event and convened a Private Sector Advisory Council meeting with GF.
- Amplified the GF results report, drafting a [statement](#) to emphasize the success and results of U.S. investments and securing a prominent [Global Health Now feature.](#), coverage in the John Hopkin's Global Health NOW newsletter, an op-ed in Newsweek by Peter Sands on fighting malaria.
- Published and promoted a new issue brief, "The GF's Unique Contribution to Universal Health Coverage and Stronger Health Systems."; Blog with Oanh Khuat "[Pandemic preparedness of, by and for the people](#)", piece in Geneva Health Files on priorities in PPR and article on the relevance of the Global Public Investment concept for international assistance in "Time for GPI."

## Friends of the Global Fund EUROPE– Monthly Update – September 2023



### Major activities:

- All Friends event on the sidelines of the UNGA / HLM's– Sept 19
- Communication activities further to the publication of the Global Fund's result report 2023
- Friends Europe's team retreat in Paris (sept 28 – 29)

### Upcoming events and activities

- Pan Europe / Germany: preparatory conference on the sidelines of the World Health Summit in Berlin: Conference on Oct 14th, dinner on Oct 17th
- France: CSO's visit to the Global Fund in Geneva, Oct 17th-18th.
- France: joint meeting with ELCP / the Global Fund / French MP's / French Amb. For Global health on Malaria (Oct 3)

### 1- STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

- **PAN-EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES:**
  - All Friends event on the margins of UNGA
  - Preparation of the WHS preparatory meeting (Oct 14)
  - Monitoring donor's and CSO dynamics around the FGHI report
- **FRANCE:**
  - Organization of a 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
  - Monitoring the publication of the Global Health strategy (Oct12)
  - Monitoring of the ODA budget for 2024
  - Friends Europe's presence at the WHS: invitation to speak sent to the French Global Health ambassador, tentative meeting with the French MoH
  - Preparation of an event on the margins of the Paris Peace forum in partnership with the daily newspaper l'Opinion
  - Preparatory works for the Paris 2024 Malaria Team project
- **GERMANY:**
  - Preparation of the WHS preparatory conference
  - Opera Gala in Berlin: participation to the organization of the award ceremony and of the travels of the awards winner
- **EU-LUX-BEL:**
  - Monitoring of the discussions on the MFF, joint advocacy with CSO partners
  - Works in view of the organization of a EU/Spain side event at the European parliament on the sidelines of the Global Gateway (Oct 25)
  - Preparatory works on messages for the European elections (June 2024)
  - Meeting with the vice mayor of Brussels to foster a diaspora approach
- **ITALY:**
  - Participation to a meeting between the Global Fund and the G7 Sherpa
  - Letter sent to the MoFA in preparation to the Italy – Africa Summit (Nov)
  - Monitoring the preparation of the Italy – Africa Summit

- **SPAIN:**
  - Monitoring of the formation of a new government
  - Participation of the Spanish International cooperation director to the All Friends Event
  - Invitation of a Spanish official to speak at the WHS preparatory meeting
  
- **Engagement of decision-makers and official statements on the record**
  - Publication of the Global Fund's 2023 result report
  - Publication of the FGHI report
  
- **Political context and strategy adaptation**
  - **France:**
    - Draft Budget bill for 2024 shows a drift vs the trajectory towards 0.7% in 2025.
    - Reinforcing tensions between France and Sahel countries
  
  - **Italy:** Italy – Africa Summit planned for the beginning of November
  
  - **FGHI report:** Wilton park meeting (beginning of October)
  
- I. **Upcoming Plans and collaboration – See above**

## Friends of the Global Fund JAPAN (FGFJ) – September 2023



### **Highlights:**

Amidst PM Fumio Kishida's cabinet reshuffle that included Hon. Keizo Takemi's appointment as the Health Minister, FGFJ has been focusing on cultivating increased policymaker support for the Global Fund through activities in Vietnam and New York. In early September, FGFJ coordinated an active three-day site visit in Vietnam for four Diet members to explore the country's coordination with the Global Fund on HIV, TB, and health system strengthening initiatives. On the sidelines of the UNHLMs on PPPR, UHC, and Tuberculosis, FGFJ also collaborated with Friends Europe and Friends US on a high-level panel discussion connecting the UNHLMs and how the Global Fund and ATM fight contributes to health system strengthening.

### **What's Ahead:**

- Public Engagement:
  - *The Inheritance* play: In early September, TMT published the play's website (<https://www.inheritance-stage.jp/>), incorporating the Global Fund's and FGFJ's logos. The official launch and the press conference will take place in mid-November and FGFJ is currently preparing for a follow-up pre-World AIDS Day event on November 30 featuring one of the main actors of the play to raise awareness on HIV and LGBTQ in the domestic and global context.
- Strengthening Communications:
  - FGFJ is continuing to coordinate with the GFS on a potential interview with Linda Mafu in Asahi Shimbun's online platform, *withPlanet*.

### **Major Activities:**

#### Policy Updates:

- On September 12, PM Kishida reshuffled his cabinet, shifting almost 20 roles including the Foreign Minister, who is now Yoko Kamikawa. One of the key shakeups was the replacement of DCCS Seiji Kihara - one of PM Kishida's closest confidants and a decision-maker of some key diplomatic policies who understood the Global Fund/FGFJ well- with Hideki Murai, an adviser to the PM. Hon. Keizo Takemi, a prominent global health figure, appointed the Health Minister as well.
- During the 2023 UNGAs, PM Kishida spoke on Japan's commitment to PPPR and UHC, noting the contribution of US\$7.5 billion towards these efforts for the period of 2022-2025. This amount includes Japan's 7th replenishment pledge of up to US\$1.08 billion.
- On September 25, PM Kishida announced the development of the new economic stimulus package with the aim of finalizing it by the end of October, implying his cabinet will form the supplementary budget soon.
- The Cabinet Secretariat publicly released an English-language informational video on Japan's global health strategy that was developed last year. The video includes commentary from two leaders of international organizations, the Global Fund's Peter Sands and the World Bank's Juan Pablo Uribe of the World Bank. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6I2rhgjXPg&t=2s>)
- Ahead of the OP-funded August parliamentarian site visit to Zambia, FGFJ helped the Global Fund coordinate with Malaria No More (MNM) and prepare necessary briefing documents in Japanese on the malaria programs on the ground.

#### FGFJ Advocacy Updates:

- FGFJ Diet Task Force (DTF) Site Visit to Vietnam:

- On September 6-8, FGFJ coordinated a 3-day program for 4 Diet members: Co-Chair Ichiro Aisawa, Co-Chair Motohisa Furukawa, Councillor Mami Tamura, and Councillor Mari Takagi. The site visit focused on HIV and TB programs as well as Vietnam's health systems and Diet members participated in meetings with the health minister, the National Lung Hospital, the National Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Hanoi Medical University and its Sexual Health Promotion clinic, JICA's HIV project, UNAIDS, IOM, WHO, and NGOs/CBOs.
  - The four parliamentarians witnessed the valuable role of the GF's support in Vietnam. They were pleased to hear the appreciation to the Global Fund's support, Japan's contribution to the Global Fund and Japan's long-standing assistance of Vietnam's health sector. They were reassured that the fight with HIV is not over, even in a country like Vietnam and that with the rapid increase of the Vietnamese migrant workers to Japan, DR-TB in Vietnam is a threat to Japan.
  - Unlike the US and Europe, Japanese bilateral assistance doesn't tend to partner with the Global Fund and this has long been a bottleneck for securing the budget for the Global Fund. Intentionally involving the Japanese Embassy in Hanoi and JICA in the site visit provided good educational opportunities and allowed all parties involved to realize how both the Japanese bilateral assistance on HIV and the Global Fund projects are happening at the same places and that there are possibilities for strengthening complementarity and partnership in the future.
  - As viral Hepatitis is the biggest public health priority in Vietnam, JICA is preparing a technical assistance program solely focusing on Hepatitis. As the Global Fund also offers its HIV services to cover Hepatitis prevention, diagnostics, and treatment, this was an area for creating synergy between GF and JICA through better aligned collaboration.
- Hon. Mami Tamura (DPFP) and Hon. Mari Takagi (CDP) were recently recruited to join FGFJ's Diet Task Force, both being members of the House of Councillors Committee on Health, Labor and Welfare, and Hon. Tamura also being a member of the Diet Malaria Caucus.
- During the week, four diet members posted more than twenty messages on X (formerly known as Twitter) as well as a few blog posts. On September 15, Co-Chair Aisawa released a newsletter blog post to his network reflecting on the site visit and the Global Fund's essential role in supporting Vietnam's health system. Co-Chair Aisawa is planning to release a second blog post soon focusing on HIV/AIDS.
- FGFJ is now compiling an internal report and analysis of the trip to share with the GFS and stakeholders.
- Joint Friends UNGA Side Event (during UNGA's HLMs on PPR, UHC and TB):
  - On September 19, FGFJ co-organized the event, "Inclusive Health Systems: Key to PPR, UHC and TB Response," with Friends US, Friends Europe, and FGF. The event focused on a people-centered and inclusive health systems to progress the three 2023 health HLM topics. The event featured the Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin and the European Commission's Erica Gerresten for keynote and closing remarks. Dr. Magda Robalo moderated a panel discussion including Dr. Eliud Wandwalo from the GF, Amb. Takeshi Akahori from MOFA of Japan, Hon. Loyce Pace from the US HHS, and Amb. Anne-Claire Amprou, the French Ambassador for GH. About 100 people were in attendance, and the event was live streamed across four languages.
  - During the panel discussion, Amb. Akahori discussed the three pillars of the Hiroshima G7 commitments to global health and underscored Japan's leadership in prioritizing global health in all of the G7 summits since 2000 as well as Japan's commitment to UHC as part of its history of fighting TB and to human security. He endorsed the Global Fund's role in the context of the FGHI, and recognized JCIE's efforts behind Japan's leadership on global health.

Strengthening communications/media relations:

- In July, Rikka Teramachi from Mainichi Shimbun published three consecutive articles following her participation in the April Global Fund media trip to Vietnam. In August, all three articles were published in print as well.
- FGFJ worked alongside the GFS to publish a Japanese-language version of Peter Sands' July Forbes op-ed on Japan's TB response building up its health system to respond to COVID-19 in Forbes Japan (<https://forbesjapan.com/articles/detail/64951>). The piece was then reprinted in Japan Yahoo, one of the largest news distribution platforms in the country. (<https://news.yahoo.co.jp/articles/03f355a4344742697c94931bce88504f9d467738>)
- FGFJ's Satoko Itoh was invited to the NIKKEI radio podcast, "Global Health Cafe" and spoke with Ms. Kumi Fujisawa, Chairperson of the International Institute for Social and Economic Research (IISE) and Mr. Toyomitsu Tamura from the National Center for Global Health and Medical Research. Ms. Itoh not only introduced the work of the Global Fund & FGFJ, but also shared relatable comparisons between the three diseases and Japan's own fight with TB and COVID-19. (<https://www.radionikkei.jp/podcast/globalhealth-cafe/>)
- Upon the launch of the Global Fund's 2023 Results Report, FGFJ supported the GFS with reviewing the Japanese versions of the news release and At A Glance, as well as disseminating the Results Report information across online platforms and with policymakers.
  - FGFJ helped publish the Japanese-language press release in the PR Times, resulting in 33 reprints and over 2,400 views as of September 28 (<https://prtimes.jp/main/html/rd/p/000000021.000019334.html>)
  - On September 19, an article by Tomoko Igarashi appeared in the Mainichi Shimbun on Hepatitis B in Burkina Faso. Ms. Igarashi had participated in the Global Fund media trips twice and has since been included in our close circle of media contacts. She mentions GF in the article. (<https://mainichi.jp/articles/20230919/dde/001/030/029000c>)

## **Friends of the Global Fund US – September 2023**



### **Introduction**

This month, Congress struggled successfully to temporarily avoid a government shutdown as the House and Senate finalize the national spending bills. The House leadership brought the FY24 State, Foreign Operations (SFOPS) bill to the floor just as the month ended, passing with a full \$2 billion for the Global Fund in an otherwise contracted bill. However, the Global Fund is still in a strong position in both the House and the Senate to achieve financing consistent with maximum allowable support under the match limitation. On the other hand, an unamended 5-year PEPFAR reauthorization remains a top priority as it sits stalled due to unfounded accusations about promoting abortion, but there are signs of hope as supporters mobilize. In addition to engaging in the High-Level Meetings themselves, the three Friends groups collaborated during UNGA week to host “Inclusive Health Systems: Key to PPR, UHC and TB response,” and Friends U.S. convened a Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) meeting with Global Fund speakers.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- We continue to expect negotiations for an omnibus spending bill after the beginning of fiscal year 2024, October 1, at first under a likely government shutdown of an undetermined length. Continuing resolutions or a final bill will very likely sustain robust Global Fund resources.
- We are expecting the introduction of a “clean” five-year reauthorization bill of PEPFAR very soon. The bill is slated to be introduced by Rep. John James (R-MI), ranking chair of the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. While stalled, action in the Senate may allow the bill to be attached to a larger must-pass spending bill.
- In early October, Chris Collins and Mark Lagon are joining an event Friends is co-hosting in San Francisco to honor the life-saving global health leadership of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and engage tech advocacy partners.

### **Major Activities**

- With a 45-day stopgap appropriation, Congressional leaders avoided a government shutdown prompted by hard-line House Republicans as the new fiscal year was scheduled to start on October 1. The House leadership currently plans to bring the FY24 SFOPS bill to the floor, opening the door for possible threatening amendments. Stopgap or final spending bills will sustain high Global Fund investment consistent with the U.S. pledge and match requirement in law. President and CEO Chris Collins had positive conversations this month with both House SFOPS Chair Mario Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Rep. Barbara Lee regarding the support for the Global Fund. Next month, we will continue to build more champions, including other subcommittee Republicans and Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), who could take Rep. Lee’s place as she steps down to run for Senate, as the highest-ranking Democrat on the subcommittee.
- In the middle of the appropriations turmoil on the Hill, we amplified the Global Fund results report, drafting a [statement](#) to emphasize the success and results of U.S. investments and securing a prominent [Global Health Now feature](#). Rachel Irwin secured coverage of the Results Report in Johns Hopkins’ *Global Health NOW* newsletter. The Communications team helped place an [op-ed in Newsweek](#) by Peter Sands on fighting malaria.
- We published and promoted a [new issue brief](#), “The Global Fund’s Unique Contribution to Universal Health Coverage and Stronger Health Systems.” We are working closely with the Global Fund communications team to build out a longer version of the report with reflections from the

UN HLM on UHC. The brief was positively received; the head of Global Fund communications called the brief, “excellent,” and African global health leader Agnes Binagwaho praised it as “clear and very useful for sharing with our leaders at African Union.”

- Mark and our chief Vietnamese civil society partner in our DRM advocacy learning project, Oanh Khuat, co-authored the blog, “[Pandemic preparedness of, by and for the people](#),” following from our [people-centered PPR report](#). Jeff Sturchio, Mark and Chris met with Joy Phumaphi, co-chair of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, to launch a workstream on expanding global health financing. In addition, Chris co-authored a piece in [Geneva Health Files](#) on priorities in pandemic preparedness. Chris contributed an article on the relevance of the Global Public Investment concept for international assistance in “[Time for GPI](#).”
- Friends participated in the #ProudofPEPFAR campaign organized by a coalition of U.S. AIDS advocates, creating a [video message for Chris](#), contributing funding to Politico digital advertisements and placing five letters to the editor by faith leaders in newspapers in the districts of key Republican authorization committee members to demonstrate Christian support for PEPFAR ([Lexington Times](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Salt Lake Tribune](#), [Arkansas Democratic Gazette](#) and [West Volusia Beacon](#)).

## Collaboration

- During UNGA week, the three Friends groups collaborated to host “Inclusive Health Systems: Key to PPR, UHC and TB response.” Mark led our participation in the event, with support from our Advocacy Manager, Srishti Banerjee. Samantha Majerus and Aria Vyas on our Communications team supported Friends Japan and Friends Europe on the invitation by marketing and developing new pop-up banners with the logos of all three Friends organizations, and live tweeting during the event. All hopes were met by the potent line-up, including: Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Indonesia’s Minister of Health; Dr. Eliud Wandwalo, Head of TB at the Global Fund; Amb. Takeshi Akahori, Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Loyce Pace, Department of Health and Human Services; Amb. Anne-Claire Amprou of France; Erica Gerretsen, the European Commission; and Lady Roslyn Morauta, Chair of the Global Fund Board. The [Global Fund tweeted](#) Chris’ comment during the session that “*There is no global health security and no effective #UHC as long as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria continue to rage.*”

## Change of Circumstances

Senator Menendez (D-NJ) leaving as Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under indictment means we will need a new Democratic champion in that chamber to introduce a clean PEPFAR reauthorization bill, perhaps Senator Cardin (D-MD), and we continue to reach out to Senate offices to identify a lead Republican cosponsor. Given public opinion polls about President Biden’s reelection, to hedge against a scenario of Republicans holding the White House, Senate and/or House in January 2025, we are further accelerating our engagement of Republicans on Capitol Hill: educating uninitiated Members, turning supporters into champions, planning trips to Africa for Members and staff, and leveraging former Rep. Roby (R-AL) and former Senate Majority Leader