

## Friends Monthly Reports – December 2023

### Friends Europe – Highlights

- World Aids Day: Event at the Italian Parliament on pediatric HIV/AIDS, with associated media and press. In France, Op-Ed in L'Opinion by Board and Advisory Committee members and a Nobel Price Laureat (see all links below).
- FR: Meeting with the MOFA team of the Amb. for Global Health re: evaluation of the GF allocation methodology, and ongoing work around the Paris Olympics Project.
- GER: Advocacy around the 2025 budget given risks of cuts due to a political crisis linked with the deficit in the federal budget.
- EU-LUX-BEL: Important advocacy re: EU Multifinancial framework (MFF) given the major cut proposed in the budget for external action, incl. through an Op-Ed and a private letter sent by the Bureau of Friends Europe to Government Heads in France, Germany, Italy, Spain.
- IT: Ongoing monitoring of the preparation of the Italy – Africa Summit planned in Jan or Feb 2024, and of the G7 Presidency, incl. stakeholder engagement, launch of a partnership with the T7 Think Tank, and publication of a joint article with IAI on multilateralism in health. **At COP28, the Minister of Health made significant mentions re: impact of climate change on health (systems, malaria) recalling the importance of Italian engagement also in the international and multilateral context, with a focus on One Health, confirming that it will be at the heart of the Italian G7 health agenda.**
- Communications: Launch of the work to review Friends Europe's strategy in partnership with a communications agency.

### Friends Japan – Highlights:

- Between November 29-December 1, FGFJ invited Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim, as well as the GF to Japan for a series of events and meetings around World AIDS Day. Their messages focused on how investments in RSSH via the HIV/AIDS response helped prepare South Africa for C-19 and will continue to do so for future pandemics, as well as on the impact of HIV/AIDS on young women and girls. These messages were well received by multiple Diet members and ministry officials alike. Friends Japan also organized a series of impactful events, and meetings for the GF, around WAD, including for the launch of the Inheritance play (see below).
- Leveraging FGF's and the FGFJ USA team visit to Tokyo for the above events, FGFJ had the opportunity to discuss its 2024 strategy, including plans around its 20th anniversary and issue briefs and thematic sheets to share with parliamentarians and key ministry officials.
- **The contribution to the GF was paid on Dec. 15 by MHLW for US\$35,424,000. MOFA will be wiring US\$14,872,364 on Dec. 21. The contribution for the FY 2023 supplementary budget will likely be disbursed in Q1 2024. In 2023, approx. US\$241.456 m, or 30% of the US\$1.08 bn 7R pledge was disbursed.**
- The Cabinet Secretariat's Global Health Strategy Council held a meeting where the 2023 joint Friends UNHLM side event was recognized as a key follow-up moment for the G7 health agenda, alongside FGHI.

### Friends US – Highlights:

- **Focus:** Ensure Congress passes the highest appropriation for the GF in FY24 consistent with the match requirement, coordinating several outreach efforts to target leaders in the House and Senate and all SFOPS appropriators.
- Friends U.S. met with Senate party and appropriation leadership offices and mobilized faith-based and other influencers to push for PEPFAR's reauthorization to be included in a final FY24 bill.
- Several Friends convenings to leaven dialogue on global health synergies, impact and social inclusion came to fruition, engaging GF leaders and the advocacy, health science and private sector communities.
- WAD: Organized a number of activities incl. the Global AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP), Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP) awards reception honoring Sen. Graham (R-SC) and Rep. Watson Coleman (D-NJ), and participation to various events and shared a social media toolkit with members of Congress, resulting in Sen. Moran (R) posting on X.
- Letter signed by 207 faith leaders thanking Chairs and Ranking Members of SFOPS for supporting the GF in FY24 bills.
- World UHC Day: Virtual discussion about the findings of the report on the GF's Unique Contribution to UHC and Stronger Health Systems, with seven high-level experts to speak to policy implications of the report.
- Virtual dialogue for U.S. health activists and analysts with GF reps on the backlash against civil society impinging on response to HTM, the global health impacts of the global backsliding on rights and democracy; Virtual thought partnership conversation between GF's CFO and members of our Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC).
- Friends U.S launched a Threads account, scaling back X since the platform is not aligned with their values.

## **Friends of the Global Fund EUROPE– Monthly Update – December 2023**



### **Major activities:**

- Italy / World AIDS day: event at the Parliament on pediatric HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with Sant Egidio, with the participation of the Global Fund, associated to a media-sequence  
[Italy - Transforming the Future: Successes and Challenges in Paediatric AIDS Care in Africa - Friends of The Global Fund Europe \(friendseurope.org\)](https://www.rainews.it/rubriche/tg2medicina33/video/2023/11/Tg2-Medicina-33-del-30112023-9423c62e-b3f6-4d8e-af48-8e41a4e7df87.html)  
<https://www.rainews.it/rubriche/tg2medicina33/video/2023/11/Tg2-Medicina-33-del-30112023-9423c62e-b3f6-4d8e-af48-8e41a4e7df87.html>
- France / World AIDS day: Oped in l'Opinion signed by Friends Europe Board and Advisory Committee members Patrice Debré and Bruno Spire, joined by Nobel prize laureate Françoise Barre-Sinoussi and Yazdan Yazdanpanah.  
[«La fin du sida est possible et, si le monde s'en donne les moyens, elle sera proche» - l'Opinion \(l'opinion.fr\)](https://www.l'opinion.fr)
- Friends Europe's Board and advisory committee meetings – Dec 22.

**Upcoming events and activities:** Revision and preparation of our work plan for 2024

### **1- STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY UPDATE**

#### **PAN-EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES:**

- 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
- Publication of a comment on the World malaria report: [World Malaria Report: Decades of progress undone - Friends of The Global Fund Europe \(friendseurope.org\)](#)

#### **FRANCE:**

- Meeting with the MOFA / team of the French Ambassador for Global Health (evaluation of the Global Fund's allocation methodology)

#### **PARIS OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS:**

- Meeting with the teams in charge of international relations at the Paris City hall, meetings at the Ministry of health
- Hearings of the communications agencies in view of the selection for the communication pillar of the project (3 agencies candidates)
- Coordination meeting with the partners in the coalition

#### **GERMANY:**

- Mailing to stakeholders for World AIDS day
- Budget advocacy in view of 2025 (risk of cut, further to a political crisis in Germany linked with the deficit in the federal budget)

#### **EU-LUX-BEL:**

- **Advocacy** on the EU Multifinancial framework, in face of a risk of a major cut in the EU's budget for external action, and on the eve of the European council:
  - Joint open letter with other CSO's and personalities: [Open Letter: European Union Leaders Must Step Up Funding for Global Action \(globalcitizen.org\)](#)
  - Private letter sent by the Bureau of Friends Europe to government heads in France, Germany, Italy, Spain

### **ITALY:**

- 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).
- Launch of a partnership with the think tank and T7 leader IAI in view of the G7
- WAD activity (see above)
- Publication of a joint article with IAI on multilateralism in health:  
<https://www.affarinternazionali.it/rimettere-la-salute-al-centro-delle-politiche-multilaterali/>

### **SPAIN:**

- Resuming the dialogue with CSO partners
- Establishing contacts with the newly formed government, within the framework of EU advocacy
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### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

## **2- ENGAGEMENT OF DECISION-MAKERS AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD**

COP28 / G7: the Italian Minister of Health Schillacci, in his speech at the COP28:

- Mentioned the vulnerability of LMICs to the impact of climate change on human health (specifically mentioning malaria)
- Emphasized the importance of making populations and health systems more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through the adoption of innovations and the improvement of early warning and surveillance systems.
- Recalled the importance of Italian engagement also in the international and multilateral context
- Confirmed that the One Health approach (human, animal and environmental health) will be at the heart of the Italian G7 health agenda.

## **3- 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.
- EU / Germany: budgetary tensions with possible consequences on the next Global Fund's replenishment.
- Global: COP 28 Nov30 – Dec12, with a day dedicated to health on Dec 3.

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



### **Highlights:**

Between November 29-December 1, FGFJ invited Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim, as well as GF's Dianne Stewart to Japan for a series of events and meetings around World AIDS Day. The Dr. Karims' messages throughout these meetings focused on how the investment in health systems strengthening via the HIV/AIDS response helped prepare South Africa for COVID-19 and will continue to do so for future pandemics. They also shared narratives on the impact of HIV/AIDS on young women and girls and the ongoing research they are leading in to protect this population. These messages were well received by multiple Diet members and ministry officials alike. In leveraging FGF's Emina Rye-Florentz's and the FGFJ USA team's recent visit to Tokyo for the above events, FGFJ had the opportunity to discuss its 2024 strategy, including plans around its 20th anniversary and issue briefs and thematic sheets to share with parliamentarians and key ministry officials.

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

- Under "Strengthening Communication":
  - *Newsweek Japan's* coverage on WAD event (to be published on December 27 and in Feb. 2024)
  - *Nikkei interview* with Dr. Karims (publish date TBC)

### **Major Activities:**

#### Policy Updates:

- The contribution to the GF from the FY2023 core budget was paid by MHLW for US\$35,424,000 on December 15 and by MOFA for US\$14,872,364 on December 21. To date, Japan has disbursed US\$315,466,900, approx. 30% of the US\$1.08 billion that was pledged for the 7th replenishment. The additional US\$241,456,934 contribution for the FY 2023 supplementary budget (The MOFA:MHLW ratio is 50:50) has been approved by the Diet and will likely be disbursed in Q1 2024.
- In response to a campaign funding scandal, PM Kishida shuffled four positions in his cabinet on December 14, including replacing Hirokazu Matsuno with former Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi as Chief Cabinet Secretary. These changes are currently not predicted to impact much of FGFJ's advocacy efforts.
- On November 28, the Cabinet Secretariat's Global Health Strategy Council held a meeting in which the 2023 joint Friends UNHLM side event on inclusive health systems was recognized as a key follow-up moment for the G7 Health agenda, alongside the FGHI process, within the meeting documents.

#### FGFJ Advocacy Updates:

- On November 29, both Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Karim spoke to young Japanese researchers in a special lecture organized by NCGM and the Japan Society for AIDS Research (JSAR) in cooperation with JCIE and FGFJ.
- FGFJ held a joint Diet Task Force & Advisory Board meeting on November 30, inviting both Dr. Karims and GF's Dianne Stewart as guest speakers.
  - Following this meeting, FGFJ DTF member and MOFA Ambassador for Public Diplomacy and Ambassador for Global Health Naoki Ito noted in a preliminary meeting for JCIE's GH Executive Committee the lessons learned from Dr. Karim's speech and the importance of investing in HIV as a foundation for Africa's health care system.

- FGFJ hosted a 3-part World AIDS Day event on November 30, inviting international health experts including Dr. Quarraisha Karim, Dianne Stewart, and MPP's Charles Gore to speak alongside Motoko Seko, a member of the GF's TRP, Ryuhei Kawada, a Diet member who focuses on public health and human rights issues and former plaintiff of the Tokyo HIV Litigation as a person living with HIV, and Jun Sugihara, the MHLW official leading the national HIV policy revisions. The event also invited the FGFJ Diet Task Force co-chair, GF's Japan BM, The Inheritance's leading actor, and a Japanese NGO to speak on Japan's continued global support in the GF and fight against HIV/AIDS, as well as the current disease situation and importance of social change in removing stigma and discrimination.
  - o Jun Sugihara noted that Japan is likely to achieve its SDGs target on HIV, the experiences around the HIV response have developed the foundation for Japan's drug policy, and that this event helped him reassure that the domestic and international HIV responses are connected. By having him speak at our event, we were able to contribute to elevating HIV on the MHLW agenda and give a stronger rationale for policymakers to continue funding to the GF.
- FGFJ also set up a meeting between Dianne Stewart and Hon. Yasuhisa Shiozaki's son and the parliamentary secretary of MHLW, Akihisa Shiozaki, on November 30 to discuss continued joint support in global efforts towards UHC and PPR.
- FGFJ supported Dianne Stewart's participation in a session on equitable access to MCMs during JCIE's December 1 Global Health Multistakeholder Dialogue, including input on recommendations towards the 2024 G7 regarding continued support on community health systems and CHWs.
  - o Throughout the GH Multistakeholder Dialogue, there was overarching emphasis around community systems and engagement.
  - o FGFJ was also able to coordinate Dr. Salim Karim's role as a guest speaker in the World AIDS Day reception following the Dialogue. Health Minister Keizo Takemi gave introductory remarks at the reception and later shared his appreciation of Dr. Karim's speech.
- Following the Dr. Karim's visit to Japan, FGFJ received an open invitation from them to consider a parliamentary trip to South Africa. FGFJ is currently discussing internally and with the GFS on opportunities to follow up with the Dr. Karim's.
- On December 8, JCIE held the first meeting of the Global Health and Japanese Diplomacy parliamentary study group, during which the GF was used as an example of "dual use" as an MCM with TB diagnostic equipment being utilized for COVID-19 and how the GF is now introducing new tools that can be used for multiple pathogens.
  - o The GF was also recognized as a space in which Japan's presence and leadership can be seen in international efforts against infectious diseases as well as strengthening health systems.

#### Strengthening communications/media relations:

- As a result of the activities around WAD, FGFJ is anticipating the following media publications:
  - o An *Asahi withPlanet* interview featuring the November 29 WAD event speaker, Motoko Seko was published on December 22 ().
  - o A two-page article in *Newsweek* about the November 29 WAD event to be released online the week of December 25 and in publication later in early February.
  - o A *Nikkei* interview featuring both Dr. Quarraisha and Salim Abdool Karim (timeline still in discussion).
- FGFJ provided input into an article published on December 6 in *Asahi's withPlanet* on the GF's health financing mechanism (<https://www.asahi.com/withplanet/article/15069383>).
  - o FGFJ will be working with the article's author, GF's Emi Inaoka, to expand on the article and create an issue brief in early 2024 on health financing.
- FGFJ coordinated with the GFS to publish Peter Sands' COP28 Forbes piece on malaria and climate change in *Forbes Japan* released on December 9 (<https://forbesjapan.com/articles/detail/67864>).
- FGFJ is discussing with the GFS potential narratives based in Nairobi as an *Asahi* journalist interested in communicable diseases and the GF will be in Kenya in February 2024.
- FGFJ helped disseminate the key GF announcements at COP28 in Japanese to Diet members and ministries, including the pact with Green Climate Fund and the endorsement on new guiding principles for financing climate and health solutions.

## Friends of the Global Fund US – December 2023



### Introduction

This month, as ever, our primary goal was ensuring Congress passes the highest appropriation for the Global Fund in the FY24 spending bill consistent with the match requirement. We coordinated several outreach efforts, including one for World AIDS Day, to target leaders in both the House and Senate and all appropriators on the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS). Additionally, we met with Senate party and appropriation leadership offices and mobilized faith-based and other influencers to push for PEPFAR's reauthorization to be included in a final FY24 bill. Several Friends convenings to leaven dialogue on global health synergies, impact and social inclusion came to fruition, engaging Global Fund leaders and the advocacy, health science and private sector communities.

### Upcoming Activities

- Looking toward the new year, we are continuing to work on our fiscal year 2025 U.S. investment case.
- We will continue to advocate to key House and Senate champions to include PEPFAR reauthorization in an enacted FY24 spending package.
- We will be gearing up for House and Senate advocacy days for the first quarter of next year in preparation for FY25 appropriations requests. We have planned advocacy days for our private sector and faith-based partners.
- We are preparing for a convening in early 2024 to discuss innovative ways to get mobilize more financing for global health (such as via private sector, multilateral development bank and blended vehicles), and the Global Fund's key role.

### Major Activities

- On November 30, a day before World AIDS Day (WAD), the [Global AIDS Policy Partnership](#) (GAPP), co-chaired by Shannon Kellman, and the [Federal AIDS Policy Partnership](#) (FAPP) hosted an awards reception on Capitol Hill honoring Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) for their outstanding efforts to end HIV/AIDS globally and domestically. Shannon introduced and presented the award to Senator Graham at the event. Friends staff also joined receptions hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding and UNAIDS to mark World AIDS Day. Additionally, on December 1st, Friends observed WAD by sharing a social media toolkit with members of Congress, which resulted in Republican Senator Jerry Moran [posting](#) on X (née Twitter). The content was also promoted on Friends' LinkedIn and Threads accounts and featured in our recent newsletter.
- Along with our faith-based partner, [2030 Collaborative](#), we organized a [faith letter](#) to thank the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and SFOPS Subcommittees for their support of the Global Fund in their FY24 bills. The letter was signed by a total of 207 faith leaders, spearheaded by the former Senate Majority Leader and current Friends U.S. board member, Dr. Bill Frist.
- On World UHC Day (December 12) we held a virtual discussion about the findings of our November report on the [Global Fund's Unique Contribution to UHC and Stronger Health Systems](#). We invited seven high-level experts from the Global Fund, private sector, civil society, implementing countries and donor countries to speak to policy implications of the report. These included Shunsuke Mabuchi, Director of Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health and Pandemic Preparedness and Response at the Global Fund; Mustupha Bittaye, Director of Health Services at the Gambian Ministry of Health; UK representative to the Global Fund Board Sarah Boulton, and Friends U.S. Board member Maurine Murenga. To promote the webinar and report

on LinkedIn, Friends launched a paid LinkedIn campaign from November 17 through December 12th, which yielded more than 100,000 impressions on the platform.

- *Two other virtual convenings:* On December 13, we coordinated a virtual dialogue for U.S. health activists and analysts on the backlash against civil society impinging on response to HIV, TB and malaria, featuring two Global Fund officials: Vuyiseka Dubula, the new Head of the Community, Rights & Gender Department, and Claudia Ahumada, point person for the Global Fund's first public [Advocacy Roadmap](#). The dialogue addressed the global health impacts of the global backsliding on rights and democracy, recent punitive LGBTQ+ laws in Uganda and gender inequality. Participants were enthusiastic about a collaborative convening and publication on the role of the public sector backing civil society space in health which Friends is planning with Georgetown University. *Also:* on December 7, we hosted a virtual thought partnership conversation between Global Fund's Chief Financial Officer Adda Faye and members of our Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC). The Gambian-born CFO highlighted methods used to maximize the Global Fund's impact for marginalized populations and outlined the role the private sector can play to advance that aim. Faye caught PSAC members' interest for other dedicated dialogues when she commented on making more determined efforts to utilize technology to further the Global Fund's mission.
- We launched a [Threads](#) account, scaling back X (formerly Twitter) presence since the platform is not aligned with our values.

### **Collaboration**

- Looking ahead to the new year, we will be working closely with the Friends Network to maintain robust support for the Global Fund for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 (the 2nd and 3rd years of the 7th Replenishment cycle), navigating limits in U.S. law based related to available match from other donors. We will be acting on the goals discussed in our strategy meeting in November after the Global Fund Board meeting and continue to collaborate on advocacy to donor governments and messaging of the Global Fund's core mission and broader value to set up the best possible outcomes of a challenging 8th Replenishment.

### **Change of Circumstances**

- We are accelerating cultivation of new champions to fill in the gaps left by members deciding not to seek re-election next year and to counter the populism, polarization and dysfunction in the House in particular. To do this, we plan to ramp up advocacy in support of the Global Fund's core mission with the goal of eliciting dedicated supportive actions from targeted legislators from our Education and Champions projects. We continue to strategize with our consultants from [Tiber Creek Group](#) to inform how best to approach certain congressional members and their staff in a nettlesome election year.