

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Chairman
Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham:

Thank you for your leadership on the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee (SFOPS) and your dedication to global health. **While we still support the topline \$1 billion ask for fiscal year 2022 (FY22) appropriations for global tuberculosis, we, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request that Senate SFOPS at least meets or exceeds proposed FY22 funding increases for global tuberculosis (TB) which were passed by the House of Representatives. These amounts include a \$150 million increase for global TB programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), totaling \$469 million, and a continued U.S. contribution of \$1.56 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund).**

The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought immense damages to the global TB response, which are estimated to cause an additional 1.4 million deaths from TB over the next five years. This is largely due to a dramatic drop in case notifications in 2020 as compared to 2019, TB staff and facility reassignment to COVID-19 response, TB program disruptions and reduced access to care during lockdowns, and reluctance of patients to seek care and risk potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2. In order to avert further unnecessary illness and death, increased funding is needed for program recovery and active case-finding. Support is also necessary to advance the critical late-stage clinical trials that are funded through USAID and provide access to new TB treatments. This need is particularly acute as COVID-19 morbidity and mortality rates continue to increase in the low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where USAID provides TB programs, foreshadowing an ever-worsening impact on the ongoing TB pandemic.

The Global Fund also plays a critical role in addressing these impacts to TB response, by providing 73 percent of international financing for TB programs. For the programs that rely on this funding, the Global Fund is a crucial lifeline of assistance in the face of mounting prevention and treatment costs. The U.S. contribution to the Global Fund sets the stage for contributions overall, and dependent programs are depending on steady and continued funding to be able to withstand the devastation caused by COVID-19 and subsequent waves of response to variants.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to advance this sorely-needed FY22 funding for global TB programs, including **no less than** \$469 million for USAID TB programs and \$1.56 billion in contributions to the Global Fund. Please contact Elizabeth Lovinger (elizabeth.lovinger@treatmentactiongroup.org) or Kate O'Brien (ms.kate.obrien@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

American Thoracic Society

Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Global Health Technologies Coalition

Harvard Medical School Center for Global Health Delivery

IAVI

Infectious Diseases Society of America

National Tuberculosis Controllers Association

Partners in Health

RESULTS

Stop TB USA

The Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance)

Treatment Action Group

Tuberculosis Roundtable

We Are TB