



Backgrounder for Health Equity: Fair Global Access to Lifesaving Medicines/Vaccines

GRAN is advocating that Canada:

Fully support the *original* TRIPS waiver (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property) at the World Trade Organization;

Fulfill its commitment to provide 200 million doses to low-income countries through COVAX by the end of 2022; and

Increase Canada's pledge by 30%, to \$1.2 billion CAD, in the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Equitable Access

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.”

-- Dr. Paul Farmer --

The COVID pandemic has had a devastating impact on sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South. Nearly 100 million people have gone into extreme poverty. In 2020, deaths from malaria and TB increased for the first time in several years. Global routine childhood vaccination rates in 2020 fell to 2005 levels.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/07/business/global-wealth-income-gap/index.html>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971222001734>

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/report/2021>

The pandemic is entering its third year and yet 2.8 billion people, largely in low- and middle income countries, remain completely unvaccinated against COVID-19. While 81% of Canadians have received two COVID-19 vaccine doses, just 16% of people in the Global South have received one dose.

The **TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property) waiver** was proposed by India and South Africa in October 2020 to temporarily suspend intellectual property barriers to ensure that vaccines, treatments, patents and manufacturing knowledge to fight COVID-19 would be available to all countries. The waiver is currently supported by more than 100 member governments of the World Trade Organization. However a few countries, led by the European Union, continue to delay negotiations on the waiver into the spring of 2022. Canada claims it does not oppose the waiver, but it has not supported it either, which is contributing to the WTO deadlock. In order to end this global pandemic, it is imperative that developing countries be given the data and knowledge necessary to become more self-sufficient in the fight against COVID-19.

“Let us never be surprised when new variants emerge. This is the outcome of vaccine apartheid and it will never end unless we vaccinate and protect the whole world.”

-- Dr. Madhukar Pai

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria Seventh Replenishment

Canada has been a long-standing partner of The Global Fund, investing over \$3.52 billion dollars since it was created in 2002. The Global Fund has helped save 44 million lives since then. The number of deaths caused by HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria each year since its inception has been reduced by 46% in the countries where the Global Fund invests, and in 2020 it funded:

- Antiretroviral treatment for 21.9 million people living with HIV
- TB treatments for 4.7 million people
- Distribution of 188 million mosquito nets

As of January 2022, The Global Fund has deployed an additional US\$4.2 billion to 108 countries to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria programs, and to strengthen health and community systems. The Global Fund is also a founding partner of the ACT-Accelerator, a global collaboration of public health agencies launched by the World Health Organization at the end of April 2020 to help fight COVID-19. The ACT-Accelerator works to accelerate the development and equitable distribution of tests, treatments and vaccines and the strengthening of health systems. GRAN is pleased that Canada's Budget 2022 has added an additional \$732 million contribution to the ACT-Accelerator.

The Global Fund has dramatically enhanced its focus on women and girls, with a total investment of \$18 billion between 2002 and 2015. A successful Seventh Replenishment of at least US\$18 billion could reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women in the most-affected countries by 72% by 2026.

For its 2022 replenishment, the Global Fund is looking for a significant increase over three years to support recovery from the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria, and to strengthen health systems to build a healthier, more equitable world.

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/seventh-replenishment/>

To learn more:

How to End Pandemics – article by Winnie Biyanyima, Director of UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2022/04/06/the-uns-winnie-biyanyima-how-to-beat-pandemics/>

The Pandemic is Following a Predictable and Depressing Pattern – article by Nadia A. Sam-Agudu, Boghuma Kabisen Titanji, Fredros Okumu, and Madhukar Pai

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2022/03/pandemic-global-south-disease-health-crisis/624179/>

Big Pharma, Profits Over Lives and an Industry Run Amok – article by Gregg Gonsalves, Yale School of Public Health <https://medium.com/@gregggonsalves/big-pharma-profits-over-lives-and-an-industry-run-amok-bb67cc587eb6>

The Barnes Lecture by Paul Farmer, MD, PHD, April 8, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU4nlHna98M&t=1167s>