

10 February 2025

## **USAID's Impact on People with TB and People Living with HIV/AIDS and Why it Must Continue!**

The Global Coalition of TB Advocates (GCTA), our allies and partners express our sincere appreciation for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and its unwavering commitment to ending the global tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS epidemic. For decades, USAID has been a cornerstone of the international fight against these devastating diseases, providing critical funding, technical expertise, and leadership that has not only saved countless lives, but also ensured global health security (including for Americans) because “we are all connected by the air we breathe”.

USAID's contributions globally have been instrumental in driving progress across the entire TB and HIV/AIDS spectrum. Supporting groundbreaking research and development of new diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines, prevention of DRTB, which is more costly to treat, to strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring access to quality TB and HIV/AIDS care in the most remote and underserved communities, USAID's impact is undeniable. USAID's investments have fuelled innovation, empowered local communities, and fostered collaboration among diverse stakeholders, creating a powerful network of partners dedicated to tackling this complex challenge and brought us closer to a world free from TB and HIV/AIDS.

We particularly acknowledge USAID's vital role in:

- **Engaging Communities and Civil Society:** USAID has consistently recognized the importance of community engagement in the fight against TB and HIV/AIDS. Its support for local organizations and community health workers has ensured that TB and HIV/AIDS programs are tailored to the specific needs of communities and that individuals affected by TB and HIV receive the care and support they need.
- **Expanding Access to Diagnosis and Treatment:** USAID's support has enabled the scale-up of rapid diagnostic tools, allowing for earlier and more accurate TB and HIV detection. Furthermore, USAID commitment to providing access to quality-assured TB and HIV/AIDS treatment, including for drug-resistant TB, has been crucial in preventing the spread of these diseases and saving lives.
- **Strengthening Health Systems:** Recognizing that a robust health system is essential for effective TB and HIV/AIDS control, USAID has invested heavily in strengthening healthcare infrastructure, training healthcare workers, and improving supply chains. These efforts have not only benefited TB and HIV/AIDS programs but have also strengthened overall health systems, leading to better health outcomes for communities as a whole.

The progress made in recent years towards ending TB and HIV/AIDS is a testament to the dedication and hard work of USAID and its partners. However, despite these remarkable achievements, TB and HIV/AIDS remain the leading infectious killer globally, claiming over a million lives each year. The fight is far from over.

It is in this context, that **the GCTA, allies and partners**, who are ourselves TB survivors, PLHIV and working with them, express our deep concern regarding the recent stop-work order issued by the U.S government, which has halted critical funding for TB and HIV/AIDS programs. This decision poses a significant threat to the hard-won gains in the fight against TB and HIV/AIDS and jeopardizes the lives of millions of people around the world.

We understand the complexities of budget allocation and the need for fiscal responsibility. However, we firmly believe that continued investment in TB and HIV/AIDS control is not just a moral imperative, but also a strategic investment in global health security, economic stability, and the well-being of all. A resurgence of TB and HIV/AIDS anywhere poses a threat to global health everywhere.

*Therefore, we urge the U.S. government to urgently reconsider the stop-work order and restore funding for essential TB and HIV/AIDS programs. The world looks to the United States for leadership in global health, and continued U.S. support is absolutely essential to achieving our shared goal of ending TB and HIV/AIDS by 2030. We are confident that by working together, we can build a future where no one suffers or dies from these preventable diseases. The time to act is now!*

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1. The Global Coalition of TB Advocates (GCTA)
2. GCTA-Y Brazil
3. GCTA-Y Cameroon
4. GCTA-Y India
5. GCTA-Y South Africa
6. GCTA-Y Kenya
7. GCTA-Y Nepal
8. GCTA-Y Indonesia
9. Biola Ariyo Youth and Women Foundation (BAYWO Foundation), Nigeria
10. Blossom trust, India
11. Centre for Positive Health Organisation (CEPHO)
12. Community Youth Health Champions, Nigeria
13. DNP+ India
14. Dynamique de la Réponse d’Afrique Francophone sur la TB (DRAF TB)
15. Equal Health and Rights Access Advocacy Initiative (EHRAAI)
16. Eurasian Coalition for Access to Treatment (ECAT)
17. For Impacts In Social Health (FIS CAMEROUN)

18. Global Fund Advocates Network Asia Pacific (GFAN AP)
19. ITPC Global
20. Initiative for Youth Health Rights and Education Empowerment (IYHREE), Nigeria
21. Jointed Hands Welfare Organization, Zimbabwe
22. Justicial Hub, Nigeria
23. Living Free Initiative for Health Development and Rights Awareness (LFIHDRA)
24. Northern Trans Health and Rights Initiative (NTHRI)
25. Pamoja TB Group Network of TB Champions, Kenya
26. Parceria Brasileira Contra Tuberculose (Brazilian Partnership Against Tuberculosis - STP  
Brazil - Civil Society Segment)
27. Positive Champions Health and Empowerment Initiative (PCHEI), Nigeria
28. Rainbow TB forum, India
29. Society for Health Inclusivity Equity and Legal Defence
30. Stop TB Partnership, Kenya
31. Stop TB Partnership, Zimbabwe
32. TB Alert, United Kingdom
33. TB Europe Coalition
34. TB Proof
35. The Fórum Ong Aids RS, Brazil
36. The Humsafar Trust
37. WACI Health, Kenya
38. Yayasan Menara Agung Pengharapan Internasional (YMAPI)
39. Zimbabwe Men Against HIV and AIDS (ZIMAHA)
40. Spiritia Foundation, Indonesia