

GLOBAL FUND APPROVES FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

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[Toronto, Canada; Caracas, Venezuela] The Global Fund Board approved a motion which will allow the Secretariat to provide up to \$US 5 million funding to respond to the health crisis in Venezuela. The decision is the culmination of a concerted and unyielding effort by Venezuelan and global activists to push the Global Fund to show leadership in supporting countries in crisis.

Alberto Nieves, Executive Director of ACCSI said that *“while the crisis in Venezuela continues and deepens, this support is an important display of global solidarity and in time of extreme need. We are happy that our community monitoring is being taken seriously and we commit to continue to monitor the situation.”*

Upper-middle income countries like Venezuela, are not eligible to receive funding from the Global Fund. It is important to highlight that the Global Fund expressed concern about the public health crisis in Venezuela and its adverse impact on the fight against the three diseases in the country and the Americas region and recognizes that the *“emergency circumstances in Venezuela and the exceptional nature of the funding proposed require unique implementation and management arrangements, which differ substantially from the standard Global Fund funding model and applicable policies”*. Thanks in part to [compelling data collected](#) by activists living with HIV in Venezuela and published by ICASO and ACCSI, the case for action by the Global Fund was made and an exception was approved.

The Board decided, based on the Strategy Committee and the Secretariat recommendation, that the 5 million dollars will be used to help alleviate gaps in HIV treatment in Venezuela. This will also include a portion to support Venezuelan civil society to provide oversight and monitoring of the delivery of ARVs to people living with HIV. Javier Hourcade Bellocq, member of the Latin American and Caribbean delegation to the Board expressed that *“It took a long time to have the Board come to this decision and we acknowledge that this is only a small step to address the crisis in Venezuela but it a move that shows the leadership of the Global Fund”*

“The Venezuelan Network of Positive People (RVG+) celebrates this decision because it will save the lives of thousands of people living with HIV in Venezuela” expressed Eduardo Franco Secretary of the RVG+

Mary Ann Torres, Executive Director of ICASO voiced her appreciation to global solidarity: *“we are grateful to see that the advocacy effort by many organizations has come to fruition with this decision that will save lives. We will continue supporting our partners in the country to ensure transparency and accountability.”*

“The role and voices of international civil society and people living with HIV inside Venezuela were instrumental to convince the Board that some countries facing extreme health crisis, irrespective of World Bank’s assigned income classification, need exceptions”, said Jorge Saavedra, Executive Director of AHF Global Public Health Institute at the University of Miami.

With this decision, [the Global Fund recognizes](#) that health crises must be dealt with using innovative mechanisms that will have immediate impact on the health and lives on millions.

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