



Investing in our future

The Global Fund

To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

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Distinguished Members of Parliament,
Dear Partners in Romania,

It is our great pleasure to recognize the significant progress made in Romania towards building a coordinated, multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS and TB over the past five years. The HIV/AIDS and TB programs, funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since 2003 in Romania, have been developed and implemented by the national stakeholders based on active partnership of the public, civil society and private sectors and in support of the National HIV/AIDS and TB Strategies.

As of 2003 the Global Fund has committed in Romania more than US\$ 58 million to enhance the HIV and TB prevention programs among most-at-risk and underserved populations to halt the spread of the diseases, to deliver quality care and support services to the people living with/or affected by HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and TB patients, and to enhance the underlying health systems in the country.

Over the past five years the committed efforts of a multitude of implementing organizations in Romania translated into remarkable results - maintenance of low incidence of HIV, decreasing TB incidence, rapid scale up of much needed prevention services for the vulnerable populations, PMTCT, HIV counseling and testing across the country, provision of high-quality MDR-TB treatment. PLWHA have benefited from expanded package of tailored care and support services.

Further, the Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation and the Ministry of Health as Principal Recipients of Global Fund grants have succeeded in building and strengthening the capacities of numerous implementing organizations, and boosted the involvement of civil society organizations and PLWHA in implementation. The Global Fund's focus on "performance-based funding" and the requirement for coherent and functioning monitoring and evaluation systems have contributed to enhancing the organizational capacities of the implementers.

Romania has proven that successful progress with demonstration of clear, measurable results is a consequence of hard and committed work, strong partnership and active engagement of government agencies, non-government organizations, associations of PLWHA and as of recently of former TB patients, international partners, representatives of the media and academic institutions.

Importantly, the strong advancements have occurred under the guidance and oversight of an active Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM). The CCM in Romania has been successful in terms of representation and functioning as a national consensus group to promote partnerships in transparently developing and implementing programs financed by the Global Fund. The continuously evolving, vibrant collaboration we have seen between government and non-government organizations in Romania sets a very strong example for other countries.

Romania, which is already a member of the European Union and an upper-middle-income economy according to the World Bank classification, is facing the urgency to identify feasible options to sustain with domestic resources the service delivery launched and/or scaled up with Global Fund's support. The strong engagement of non-government organizations and PLWHA and the integration of their expertise in collaborations with the public sector organizations should be continued and enhanced. It is vital that despite the

current economic circumstances the investments in controlling the spread of HIV and TB in the country are sustained and the necessary enabling legislation is in place.

Members of the Parliament have an important role to play in this undertaking, including in ensuring Romania's meaningful contribution to international commitments related to HIV/AIDS and TB control, adequate national budget support to halt the spread of the diseases, and stigma reduction and awareness building at the level of the communities they are representing.

We are hopeful that in the future your efforts will succeed in offering a better and healthier future to the most vulnerable, and ultimately, to all citizens of your country.

Sincerely,

Maria Kirova
Fund Portfolio Manager
Eastern Europe and Central Asia
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria