

SEA CONSTITUENCY

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

What is the South East Asia (SEA) Constituency newsletter?

It is a monthly publication created to disseminate information from the Global Fund Board and Alternate Members of the SEA Constituency and the members. The first edition was published in August 2024.

Who are the recipients of this newsletter?

Primary recipients are Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Chairs and Coordinators. It is also available to the broader public, including health providers, NGO members, and other interested individuals.

What will you find in the newsletter?

Updates on Global Fund Board-related matters, the latest Global Fund news, and country-specific initiatives for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Can this newsletter feature my organization's stories, activities, or opportunities (e.g. conferences or workshops)?

Absolutely! Please send your stories related to HIV, tuberculosis, or malaria by the 25th of each month to seaconstituency@gmail.com to be published in the following month's edition.

How can I or my colleagues get the newsletter?

Simply fill out [this form](#), and you will receive the newsletter every month directly in your email.

Updated on Board Matters

Decisions taken via electronic vote in August 2024

1. Decision on the Secretariat's Recommendation on Funding from the 2023-2025 Allocation for Congo (Democratic Republic) (**Vote: Not object**)

Description: The decision outlines the Secretariat's recommendation for funding from the 2023-2025 allocation for two grants in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Malaria and Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH), totaling approximately \$253.9 million. The Global Fund's Grant Approvals Committee (GAC) reviewed the funding requests, confirming they are strategically focused, technically sound, and disbursement-ready. The grants aim to address significant health challenges, such as the high burden of malaria in DRC, and will be managed by designated Principal Recipients. The GAC emphasized the need for ongoing coordination with partners and highlighted key areas for resource mobilization.

2. Limited restricted financial contribution from the Pandemic Fund (**No vote submitted by SEA Constituency**)

Description: The decision seeks approval from the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) to receive a one-time restricted financial contribution from the Pandemic Fund to serve as an Implementing Entity for Nigeria. This funding, amounting to \$13 million, would be used to establish a regional center of excellence in biomedical engineering to enhance medical oxygen delivery in Nigeria and surrounding regions. The AFC's decision is urgent due to tight timelines and aims to test the feasibility of managing restricted funds from the Pandemic Fund without setting a precedent for future contributions. The proposed investments align with existing GF initiatives and have strong support from the Nigerian MoH.

3. Additional Catalytic Investment Priority for the 2023-2025 Allocation Period: Climate and Health (**Vote: Yes**)

Description: This decision is to seek approval of a new catalytic investment priority for the 2023-2025 allocation period, focused on climate and health, as recommended by the Strategy Committee. This

new priority aims to address the growing impact of climate change on health by mobilizing additional resources from private sector donors to fund interventions that reduce climate-related health risks. The initiative will support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in countries most vulnerable to climate impacts, particularly those with high burdens of HIV, TB, and malaria. The investment will focus on immediate adaptation needs, building climate-resilient health systems, and promoting sustainable, low-carbon technologies, while leveraging existing GF processes/partnerships to ensure efficient deployment.

Global Fund News

The Global Fund Supports Countries' Efforts to Respond to Mpox

In light of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) declaration of a public health emergency of continental security (PHECS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) declaration of mpox as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) is reaffirming its commitment to swiftly respond to requests from countries to reinvest grant funding to strengthen their response to mpox outbreaks.

The Global Fund will continue to engage with partners like Africa CDC, WHO, FIND and others in support of availability of diagnostics in the countries where it invests. The technical brief is being updated to include mpox molecular tests which meet the Global Fund's quality assurance standards and are allowed to be procured through Global Fund financing.

The Global Fund will follow developments in the outbreak and technical advice from the Africa CDC and WHO and will work closely with countries to support their mpox responses.

For more info, [please visit here](#).

SEA Constituency

Call for Hosting SEA Constituency Meeting 2025 (Deadline: 16 September 2024)

We are pleased to announce the call for expressions of interest to host the upcoming South East Asia Constituency Meeting, scheduled for March 2025. This meeting is a critical platform where SEA Constituency members gather to discuss priority issues ahead of the Global Fund Board Meeting.

Key agenda items will include preparation for the 53rd Board Meeting, with a focus on the list of delegates, agenda, decision items, and discussions on Sustainability, Transition, and Co-financing (STC) plans for the SEA countries.

The host country will play a pivotal role in organizing the event, managing logistics, and providing visa assistance. Interested member to please send a cover letter signed by the CCM Chair by 16 September 2024, 17:00 Jakarta time. Submissions should be sent to Aqsha Nur at anur@kemkes.go.id with a copy to seaconstituency@gmail.com.



Figure 1. SEA Constituency meeting 2024.

Debriefing: Board Retreat and 25th Committee Meetings

The debrief was held on 15 August, focusing on the outcomes of the Global Fund Board Retreat and committee meetings (AFC, EGC), as well as a call for hosting the upcoming SEA Constituency meeting. Attendees included the Board Member (BM), Alternate Board Member (ABM), Constituency Focal Point (CFP), and representatives from CCMs. Ms. Aishath Samiya (ABM) sharing key takeaways from the Board Retreat in July 2024. She highlighted four funding scenarios for the 8th replenishment and their potential impact on HIV, TB, and malaria programs, emphasizing concerns about reduced funding. Mr. Rai Mahimapat Ray then presented insights from the Audit and Finance Committee, focusing on the potential threat posed by the Pandemic Fund and how donor allocations may shift away from the Global Fund Mr. Manaj Kumar Biswas followed with a discussion on the Ethics and Governance Committee meeting, addressing governance assessments, African representation, and challenges related to limited internet access during the meeting.

The meeting concluded with Aqsha Nur (CFP) facilitating the Call for Expressions of Interest to host the SEA Constituency Meeting in 2025, with countries encouraged to submit their proposals by 16 September 2024. Participants were also invited to share their country experiences for inclusion in the SEA Constituency newsletter.

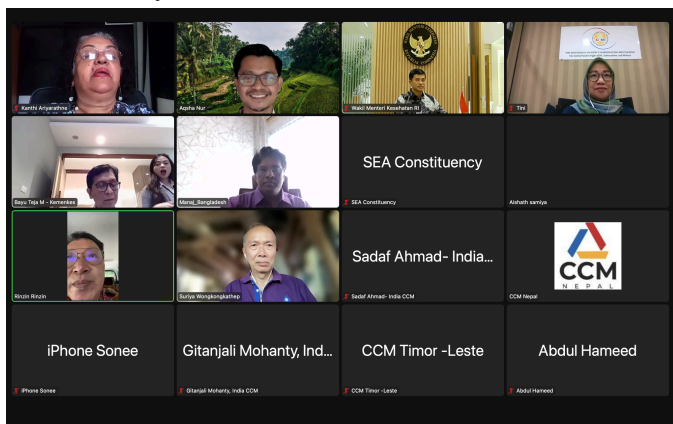


Figure 2. SEA Constituency debrief meeting, 15 August 2024.

Meeting with representative for DPR Korea

Board and Alternate Members of SEA Constituency convened a meeting with WHO SEARO and WHO representative for DPR Korea. This meeting aims to: (1) establish key contacts for Global Fund activities in DPR Korea; (2) understand the main priorities of DPR Korea's HIV, TB, and Malaria programs; and (3) enhance engagement with board-related matters between SEA Constituency and DPR Korea.

Dr Suman Rijal, Dr Mohamed Jamsheet, Dr Vineet Bhatia, Dr Kamar Rezwan, and Dr Risintha Premaratne participated on behalf of DPR Korea. The meeting highlighted that there are low reported HIV cases in DPR Korea, but the country remains a high-burden area for tuberculosis (TB). This underscores the critical need for continued focus and resources on TB control.

WHO SEARO and the WHO representative for DPR Korea will temporarily act as focal points to facilitate coordination and communication between DPR Korea and SEA Constituency leadership. Furthermore, the Board Member will connect with the Global Fund Country Portfolio Manager for DPR Korea to gain deeper insights into the implementation of the current grants.

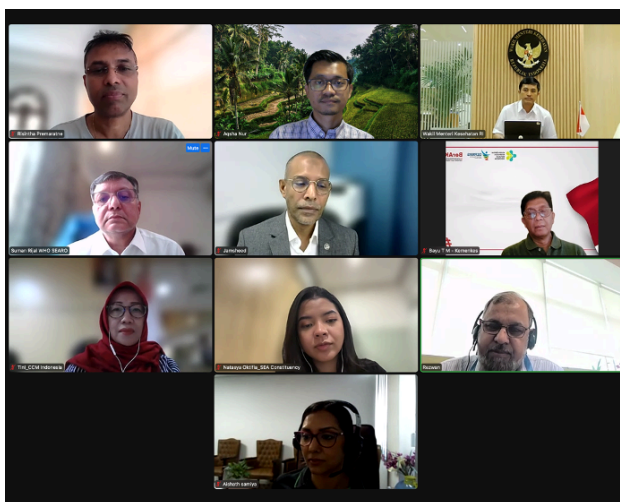


Figure 3. Meeting with the Representative for DPR Korea, 29 August 2024.

Country Story: CCM Sri Lanka Oversight Committee meeting

The latest Oversight Committee meeting of the Country Coordinating Mechanism of Sri Lanka (CCMSL) was held on Saturday, 17 August 2024, from 10:15 AM to 1:30 PM at the Ministry of Health, Reverent Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10.

The meeting, chaired by Dr. Asela Gunawardane, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) and Chairman of the Oversight Committee (OC), was attended by five out of eight members. Representatives from other Health Ministry Directorates, WHO Sri Lanka, and Civil Society Organizations provided professional input and voiced community concerns. Key discussions focused on the progress of the Fund Request for Grant Cycle 7 (GC7), submitted in February 2024, and the grant negotiation meetings held in June. The committee also reviewed grants for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS prevention, COVID-19 response activities, and the Health Information and Quality Improvement Project. Additionally, the Regional Grant known as SKPA-2 was evaluated.

An update was also provided on the capacity-building workshop on the Protection of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by the Global Fund's PSEAH Unit, which Sri Lanka participated in. This meeting is part of CCMSL's quarterly activities, serving as a vital tool for monitoring and evaluation.



Figure 4. CCM Sri Lanka Oversight Committee Meeting, 17 August 2024.

Upcoming Events

10 September 2024: Webinar on The Global Fund, Digital Health, and Human Rights

The Developed Country NGO Delegation and Point Seven are pleased to invite Global Fund Board Leadership, Committee Chairs, Board Members and constituency representatives to a one-hour webinar focused on the Global Fund, Digital Health, and Human Rights on Tuesday, 10 September, 2024 at 16.00-17.00 CEST. The webinar will launch the new report commissioned by the Developed Country NGO Delegation, entitled The Global Fund, Digital Health, and Human Rights: A Study of Digital Risks and Institutional Capacity. [Please register via this link to receive the calendar invitation and meeting link.](#)

DEVELOPED COUNTRY
NGO DELEGATION

POINT SEVEN

CO-SPONSORED

WEBINAR

The Global Fund, Digital Health, and Human Rights

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

SYLVIE CHANTEREAU (AFC VICE-CHAIR)

BRIAN CITRO / ELISE MEYER (INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS)

DR ALAIN LABRIQUE (WHO)

CHERISE SCOTT (UNITAID)

AND MORE!

TUESDAY, 10 SEPT 2024 16.00 CEST

Figure 5. Webinar the Global Fund, Digital Health, and Human Rights, 10 September 2024..

Stay informed and connected with the latest updates, insights, and news from the SEA Constituency. Our monthly newsletter, created by the dedicated support team, provides valuable information and highlights key activities within the constituency.

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