

STATEMENT Delivered By
H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.
President of the Republic of Liberia
at the Launching of the
FUND GRANT CYCLE 7
Monrovia City Hall, Monrovia, Liberia

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Madam Minister of Health, Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, and the Ministry of Health
Family

Representatives of the NGO Community

Representatives of our Partner Governments & Institutions

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Professionals; Esteemed Guests

The News Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you today to officially launch the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) in Liberia. This significant occasion marks a renewed commitment to combating the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria—diseases that have for so long plagued our nation and hindered our progress.

The Government and people of Liberia remain eternally grateful to all funding donors of the Global Fund who make their work possible, making lives healthier and longer.

The Global Fund has been an invaluable partner to Liberia over the years, supporting our nation's development agenda by contributing tirelessly to our healthcare system, providing crucial support in our fight against these deadly diseases.

The GC7 grant is a testament to the Global Fund's unwavering dedication to improving health outcomes in countries like ours, where the need is great, the challenges are many, and the opportunities, few. This grant will not only consolidate the gains we've made over the years, it will also strengthen and accelerate our national response to HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.

As we embark on this new phase of our partnership with the Global Fund, it is crucial to acknowledge the significant strides we have made thus far. Through previous grants, we have expanded access to essential health services, increased the availability of life-saving medications, and improved our healthcare infrastructure.

Yet, we recognize that much work remains to be done. The GC7 grant will enable us to build on these achievements, ensuring that our healthcare system is more resilient, efficient, and accessible to all Liberians.

Our commitment to improving healthcare is unwavering. We will continue to prioritize the training and capacity-building of our healthcare professionals, ensuring they have the skills and resources needed to provide high-quality care.

Moreover, we will invest in strengthening our supply chain management systems to ensure that medications and medical supplies reach those who need them most in a timely and efficient manner.

The fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Through the GC7 grant, we will enhance our prevention, diagnosis, and treatment efforts for these diseases. We will implement innovative strategies to reach key populations, reduce stigma and discrimination, and promote community engagement and ownership of health initiatives.

For HIV, we will focus on scaling up antiretroviral therapy, expanding access to HIV testing and counseling services particularly to high-risk population groups, and promoting HIV prevention measures such as condom distribution and awareness campaigns.

We will also prioritize interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, ensuring that every child born in Liberia has the opportunity to grow up healthy and HIV-free.

Furthermore, we will improve multi-sectorial coordination and promote sustainability of the HIV response under the oversight of the National AIDS Commission, which I head.

In the fight against tuberculosis, we will strengthen our diagnostic capacity, ensuring that all individuals with TB are promptly identified and treated. We will also enhance our efforts to address multidrug-resistant TB, providing specialized care and support to those affected by this challenging form of the disease.

Malaria remains a significant public health challenge in Liberia, particularly for our most vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and young children.

Through the GC7 grant, we will intensify our efforts to distribute insecticide-treated bed nets, support our National Malaria Control Program and stakeholders at all levels to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment for malaria cases, and ensure timely, complete, and accurate data for decision making.

We will also continue to promote community-based interventions, empowering individuals and communities to take an active role in malaria prevention and control. A special focus will be on the reduction of gender and human rights-related barriers to optimal malaria prevention, testing, and treatment services.

All grants – HIV, TB, and Malaria – will share a common vision of supporting resilient and sustainable systems for health – with cross cutting, integrated interventions aligned with government policies and priorities.

Areas of focus include strengthening our supply chain system, network of laboratories, community systems strengthening, health financing systems, monitoring and evaluation systems, and health sector planning and governance for integrated, people-centered services.

While the support from the Global Fund is instrumental in our fight against these diseases, we recognize that sustainable progress requires a collective effort to ensure national buy-in and ownership. The government of Liberia is fully committed to addressing the gaps in funding and ensuring that our co-financing commitments are met.

We will work diligently to mobilize domestic resources, strengthen our financial management systems, and foster partnerships with other stakeholders to secure additional funding for our health programs.

We understand that the path to achieving our health goals is not without challenges. However, we are resolute in our determination to overcome these obstacles and build a healthier, more prosperous future for all Liberians.

Our government will continue to prioritize health as a key pillar of our national development agenda, recognizing that a healthy population is the foundation for sustainable development and economic growth.

As we launch the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7, I call upon all stakeholders—government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector—to join us in this critical endeavor.

Together, we can create a Liberia where no one is left behind, where every individual has access to quality healthcare, and where we can look forward to a future free from the burden of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Global Fund, its donors, and all partners who have stood by Liberia in our journey towards better health. Your unwavering support and commitment are making a profound difference in the lives of our people.

Let us seize this opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to health and to work tirelessly towards achieving our shared vision of a healthier, more equitable world. It is in this light that I take such great pride and deep satisfaction to announce the total approved amount given under the Grant for the people of Liberia to accelerate the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria and to strengthen our health systems.

The amount is One hundred and seventeen million, five hundred and forty-six thousand, six hundred and seventy United States dollars (US\$117,546,670).

This substantial investment underscores the international community's confidence in our ability to turn the tide against these diseases and transform our healthcare landscape.

And as we marvel at the size of this donation and sprint toward the set targets, let me remind you that the best way to acknowledge, appreciate and thank donors is to be judicious, smart, frugal, transparent, and purposeful use of their donation. I trust we can and will do just that. Thank you, Global Fund.

Let's do justice to this noble mission as we THINK LIBERIA, LOVE LIBERIA, and BUILD LIBERIA.

Thank you.

May God bless us all and save our Republic.