



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. JULIUS
MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW
GRANT BY THE GLOBAL FUND TO STRENGTHEN
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT THE
PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF MALARIA,
TUBERCULOSIS, AND HIV/AIDS. FREETOWN, 8
SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Hon. Vice-President
Ministers of Government,
Honourable members of Parliament
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp
The Executive of Global Fund
Members of the Country Coordinating Committee of the Global Fund in Sierra
Leone
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
Good morning

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1. Let me start off by thanking our great friend, Peter Sands. Thank you for following up on our conversations and commitments and for making our shared vision a reality today. It is a real pleasure seeing and hearing from you again.
2. Before then, I had met with the Global Fund West Africa Regional Manager, **Mr. Nicolas Cantau**; the Global Fund portfolio Manager for Sierra Leone, **Mr. Lionel Caruana**; and the Chairman for the Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone – CCM-SL -, **Alhaji Bailor Jalloh**. Along with a cross-section of CCM SL Members and the Minister of Health, we discussed strategies to step up the fight against Malaria, Tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, and how to build a strong healthcare system in this country.
3. So, I want to start this short address by thanking the Global Fund for being a critical partner in Sierra Leone's health sector. They have contributed a very significant share of healthcare financing. Their support constitutes about 90% of the HIV programme budget, and over 70% of the TB and malaria programmes.
4. We have argued throughout that our socio-economic indicators will be depressing, and our national development will be limited if we do not have a healthy population and a well-resourced and functioning national healthcare delivery system.
5. Healthcare is a key baluster among our human capital development priorities. It aligns with imperatives in our Medium-Term National Development Plan and with the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. We have made some progress in health governance; expanding and improving healthcare; disease prevention, control and surveillance; and, healthcare service delivery. We have a way to go in some of these areas but the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has some exciting ideas and concrete plans. There is a lot of cause for optimism, therefore.
7. We also have made progress on the goals we set out for health financing. We have increased budgetary allocations to health and sanitation, and made progress on implementing the National Health Insurance scheme.
8. In spite of disruptions occasioned by COVID-19, we believe it is possible to get back on track in our fights against the burdens of HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria. But getting back on track requires significant resource mobilisation. That is why my Government has been working hard to establish strong partnerships with reputable

institutional and donor partners around the world. One such partner is the Global Fund.

9. For us, the Global Fund has been the largest investor in grants to build resilient and sustainable health systems in our country. Your investments in tools, systems, health workers, and laboratory resources are underpinning our COVID-19 responses and our responses to other disease burdens in our country. Be assured that Sierra Leone will continue to be a strong ally in all your high-level advocacy campaigns for strengthening health systems.
10. We also recognise that the fight against Malaria, TB, AIDS and COVID-19 cannot be adequately handled by one ministry or agency. It is a fight that calls for a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach. I, therefore, urge all Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to work closely with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and NaCoVERC to develop effective strategies to achieve the desired results. I call on our International and national partners, and donors to continue to provide their technical and financial support to help us win this fight. It is possible; it is achievable.
11. But such partnerships thrive as a result of trust and confidence borne of transparency and accountability. In line with our national campaign against corruption that has seen our control of corruption scores move from 47% to 81% over the last three years, we wish to assure our partners, especially The Global Fund, that we will work assiduously to strengthen management, monitoring, and implementation of all resources provided.
12. In view of reimbursement to the Global Fund for funds declared as ineligible during the tenure of the past Government, I wish to assure Global Fund that the negotiated commitment plan to pay an initial 40% in 2021 has been authorised, and will be strictly adhered to. I also want to publicly commit that the full amount will be paid shortly. I thank Global Fund and other partners for the confidence reposed in our Government and rest assured that we will always be trustworthy partners.
13. At this juncture, I wish to share the great news with Sierra Leoneans. The Global Fund has approved the New Funding Model 3 amount of **\$125 MILLION (One Hundred and Twenty-Five Million United States Dollars)** for the fight against Malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS, and to strengthen the Health Systems in Sierra Leone for the period retroactive 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2024. This is a grant.
14. I am also pleased to further inform you that the Government of Sierra Leone has committed additional funding of **\$9,465,377 (Nine Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Three**

Hundred and Seventy-Seven United States Dollars) as counterpart funding to fight HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Health system strengthening for the period spanning financial year 2021-2024.

15. That is not all. The Global Fund in collaboration with Expertise France has also approved COVID-19 Funding of **\$31 MILLION (Thirty-One Million United States Dollars)** to respond to and mitigate the effects of Covid -19 on the progress made in the fight against the three diseases in Sierra Leone for the period retroactive 1st July 2021 to 31st December 2023.
16. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Catholic Relief Service have been appointed as the principal recipients to administer these funds. They will identify and work with sub-recipients and other in-country partners including community-based organizations. These principal recipients will also work with the central coordinating Unit, NaCoVERC, for the implementation of the COVID-19 funds.
17. Let me conclude by thanking Global Fund and Expertise France for this great support to the healthcare sector in the history of Sierra Leone.
18. I also want to extend my thanks to CCM SL, in-country partners, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Government Line-Ministries, Multi/Bilateral Partners, consultants, and beneficiaries who fully participated in developing the proposals for the approval of these funds. For us, a healthy population is a productive population, and we will continue doing all we can to ensure the improvement of health services to Sierra Leoneans.
19. Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it now gives me great pleasure to officially launch the Global Fund grant of **US\$ 156 MILLION (One Hundred and Fifty-Six Million United States Dollars)** to accelerate the fight against HIV/TB and Malaria, and strengthen the Health System in Sierra Leone.

May God bless us all and God bless the Republic of Sierra Leone.