United Nations
SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN:
RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

15 October 2019

Rural women represent the backbone of many communities, but they continue to face obstacles that prevent them from realizing their potential. The devastating impacts of climate change add to their hardship.

Almost a third of women’s employment worldwide is in agriculture. Women cultivate land, collect food, water and essential fuels, and sustain entire households, but lack equal access to land, finances, equipment, markets and decision-making power.

Climate change exacerbates these inequalities, leaving rural women and girls further behind. A quarter of the total damage and loss resulting from climate-related disasters between 2006 and 2016 was suffered by the agricultural sector in developing countries, and women suffer disproportionately in such disasters.

At the same time, rural women are a repository of knowledge and skills that can help communities and societies adapt to the consequences of climate change through nature-based, low-carbon solutions. As farmers and producers, they play a central role in embracing both traditional and modern practices to respond to climate variability and shocks like droughts, heat waves, and extreme rainfall.

Listening to rural women and amplifying their voices is central to spreading knowledge about climate change and urging governments, businesses and community leaders to act. As early adopters of new agricultural techniques, first responders in crises and entrepreneurs of green energy, rural women are a powerful force that can drive global progress.
On this International Day of Rural Women, let us take a concrete step towards such a future by supporting rural women and girls around the world.

***

UNAIDS
PRESS STATEMENT

UNAIDS thanks all donors for pledging full funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has raised US$ 14 billion for the three diseases for a three-year period (2020–2022)

GENEVA, 11 October 2019—UNAIDS is hugely encouraged by the firm commitment that donors have shown to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). At its Sixth Replenishment Conference, held in Lyon, France, on 9 and 10 October 2019, the Global Fund raised US$ 14.02 billion, the highest amount ever for the partnership, which is working to end the three diseases.

“I truly commend all countries and partners that have stepped up to the mark and committed to investing in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,” said Gunilla Carlsson, UNAIDS Executive Director, a.i. “These investments are a critical lifeline for millions of people around the world. Going forward, putting people at the centre will be critical for making the money work most effectively.”

UNAIDS congratulates the President of France, Emanuel Macron, for his personal engagement and his call on countries to increase their pledges to honour the proposed 15% increase above the last replenishment. Most donors matched or surpassed the 15% increase and many new donors attended and pledged for the first time.

UNAIDS will continue to work closely with the Global Fund providing strategic information, technical expertise and capacity-building to countries in sourcing and implementing Global Fund grants. UNAIDS advocates for a people-centred, human rights-based approach to
ending AIDS and fully supports the active engagement of civil society and community-based organizations in reaching the most marginalized people and people being left behind. In 2018, there were 37.9 million people living with HIV, 15 million of whom are still in urgent need of access to life-saving antiretroviral therapy.

The pledges to the Global Fund will boost the response to HIV. UNAIDS will continue to advocate for increased investment to meet the full resource needs of the AIDS response to end AIDS by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CONTACT

UNAIDS Geneva
Sophie Barton-Knott
tel. +41 22 791 1697
bartonknotts@unaids.org

UNAIDS Media
tel. +41 79 514 6896 /
+41 22 791 42 37
communications@unaids.org