

December 9, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to defend long-standing U.S. commitments to meet critical health and development needs by allocating the highest possible funding for global health and development programs. We urge you to allocate **\$44.64 billion for the international affairs account, and** remove all policy riders that compromise the effectiveness of global health and development programs.

As you finalize the FY 2012 State/Foreign Operations spending bill, we urge you to adopt the following funding levels in the final bill:

Maternal and Child Health: \$595 million including \$100 m for GAVI
Family Planning: \$700 million including \$40 million for UNFPA
Malaria: \$642 million
Neglected Tropical Diseases: \$89 million
Tuberculosis: \$225 million
Global HIV/AIDS: \$5.6 billion
Global Fund: \$750 million, for a total U.S. contribution of at least \$1.05 billion
UNICEF: \$132.25 million

For every five percent cut to global health funding from FY 11:

- 69,360 fewer HIV-positive women will receive prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services which means 13,178 more infants infected with HIV annually and 4,393 more infant deaths (before the age of one) due to HIV-related causes;
- 189,165 orphans and vulnerable children will lose food, education, and livelihood assistance;
- 181,161 people will not receive AIDS treatment 876,642 fewer bed nets will be provided through the President's Malaria Initiative;
- 20,043 fewer people with TB will receive treatment 488,368 fewer pentavalent vaccines for children will be available through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations which means 6,105 more deaths from preventable childhood diseases.

For every ten percent cut to bilateral global health funding from FY 11:

- Over 1 million (1,028,330) fewer children would receive low-cost antibiotics to treat pneumonia – the leading killer of kids under five;
- 1.6 (1,623,165) million fewer children would receive oral rehydration salts that can help save many of the 1.2 million who die needlessly from diarrhea;
- More than 900,000 (910,158) children would not be immunized against measles, tetanus, and pertussis;
- Over 15 million people would not be treated for neglected tropical diseases.
- 3.7 million fewer women and couples would receive contraceptive services and supplies;
- 1.2 million more unintended pregnancies would occur;
- 510,000 more unplanned births would occur;
- 3,200 more maternal deaths and over 14,000 more orphans

- Over 500,000 people would be at risk for blindness and the opportunity to actually eliminate a neglected tropical disease (ochocerciasis) in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2015 would be missed.

The United States is known as a global leader on health and development assistance programs. With a budget that comprises less than one percent of the entire federal budget, the U.S. has been able to reach millions of women, men and children around the world with lifesaving services. U.S. investments in these programs have:

- treated more than 3 million people living with HIV and prevent HIV transmission among millions more;
- cut the number of malaria cases by more than 50% in 43 countries in the last 10 years;
- contributed to immunizing more than 100 million children each year;
- treated 10 million people with tuberculosis;
- delivered more than 255 million treatments to approximately 60 million people for neglected tropical diseases;
- increased the number of skilled birth attendants present during deliveries;
- and supported research to develop and deliver new vaccines, drugs, and other critical health tools.

These resources allocated to global health are critical to advancing U.S. interests and other international development objectives, mitigating the effects of the global financial crisis and securing a healthier, safer world. Now is not the time to roll back progress.

The U.S. must remain committed to battling conditions that lead to extreme deprivation – such as lack of access to food, safe water, adequate health care, and infringement of basic human rights, which create environments conducive to fostering threats against the security of our nation.

We appreciate the difficult fiscal environment facing this country but we are concerned about the cost of disproportionate cuts on programs that have proven their value and effectiveness. Drastically slashing U.S. global health programs will reverse the health and development gains we have seen worldwide, and ultimately cost us more in the long run through emergency assistance. An overwhelming majority of Americans across the political spectrum have supported U.S. assistance for global health and development programs. We urge you to support \$44.64 billion for the international affairs budget, including the highest possible funding for global health, without increased funding coming at the expense of other development and humanitarian assistance accounts. We also urge that the final bill reject all House policy riders.

Sincerely,

American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Americans for UNFPA

Christian Connections for International Health

Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative

Family Care International

FHI 360

GAPPS

Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases

IMA World Health

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

International Women's Health Coalition

John Snow, Inc

Management Sciences for Health

Oncology Consulting International, LLC
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Action International
Population Services International
Public Health Institute
TB Alliance
Treatment Action Group
CARE USA
Women of Reform Judaism
Every Mother Counts
AMREF
Friends of the Global Fight
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Global Health Council
IMC Worldwide