

# **FAITH-BASED HEALTH SERVICES PARTNER WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY**

## **THE SCALE OF FAITH-BASED HEALTH CARE**

In many low- and middle-income countries, Christian and other faith-based health services play a significant and essential role in providing healthcare to individuals who may otherwise have limited or no access to medical services.

For example, **22 Christian health networks in 17 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa reported 8,355 health assets in 2023**.<sup>1</sup> The data was compiled and analyzed by the Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium in partnership with the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform.

While these faith-based health providers are highly motivated to care for those in need, their work was often leveraged by US foreign assistance helping them reach more people with life-saving care before the termination of US-funded health programs.

## **WHAT IS NOW MISSING?**

“[The nationwide faith-based supply chain project] for the distribution of HIV, TB, and malaria commodities has been terminated with very little information provided. We are in shock, given that we are dealing with life-saving medications.” **-The head of a Christian Health Association in Africa.**

Tenwek, a Christian mission hospital in Kenya affiliated with the World Gospel Mission and the Africa Gospel Church made the difficult decision of halting any new HIV patients due to the USAID cuts. Tenwek treats 1,873 patients with antiretroviral therapy (ART). While Kenya’s healthcare system has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the transition from international funding to local sustainability is not complete. Any disruption in treatment could result in the emergence of drug-resistant HIV strains. **-Dr. Jon Steen and Dr. Hillary Kositany, World Gospel Mission**

**Three Christian Health Associations in Africa** have abruptly lost funding for programs to improve maternal and child health, fight malaria and address HIV.

**A US-based Christian organization** working in a very fragile and conflict-affected country can no longer provide antenatal care to pregnant women, deliver babies, prevent anemia, eclampsia, and prevent other pregnancy-related deaths.

# RESTORING TRUST IN THE U.S.

## WHAT COMES NEXT?

**The problem:** Most low-income countries recently receiving U.S. global health assistance have very young populations.<sup>2</sup> The drastic reductions in U.S. health funding put the health systems in these countries at great risk. Rather than viewing the U.S. as a partner in their well-being, these youth may grow up feeling abandoned as they witness parents and teachers becoming ill and dying as they did in the days before PEPFAR (from AIDS or other preventable deaths). This could lead to instability that poses long-term strategic and security concerns as social unrest and economic stagnation increase and trust in the U.S. is lost.

**The solution:** By partnering with faith-based organizations and others and maintaining investments in health, the U.S. has an opportunity to strengthen its global influence in a way that fosters stability and prosperity—ultimately benefiting both recipient countries and U.S. national interests.

## WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

We ask Congress to strongly urge the Administration to act quickly to save lives and restore funding for foreign assistance. Faith actors are ready to discuss how we can work together to **care for vulnerable people as our faith calls** and approach global programs that make the **United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous**.

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1. Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium. (2023). Summary data report from 22 Christian health networks in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[https://www.ccih.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024\\_SSA\\_Data\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.ccih.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024_SSA_Data_Summary.pdf)

2. CIA. The World Fact Book. Median Age. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/median-age/>

**Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) is a 501(C)3 organization and a network of 125 organizations working in 90 low- and middle-income countries. We provide a platform for capacity building, networking, advocacy, and fellowship for Christians working in global health.**

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