

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

Thank you again for your leadership and for recently reaffirming that foreign aid is a strategic investment in our national security, health, and prosperity. We share your commitment to making America safer, stronger, and more secure.

As a follow-up to our letter on April 10, 2025 (as attached), we write to express our concern about the status of FY2024 funding for the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). Our estimate is that of the \$795 million appropriated by U.S. Congress, only one-fourth to one-third has been obligated to date, leaving two-thirds and three-quarters unobligated at a critical juncture. We strongly encourage you to ensure that the remaining appropriations for FY2024 are obligated as soon as possible. We also appeal for swift action to address remaining bottlenecks and emerging operational threats that will undermine efforts to save lives around the world—particularly young children— and to protect the health of Americans abroad and here at home.

The timing is particularly critical because the start of the rainy season is approaching across much of Africa, a period when malaria transmission typically peaks. It is essential that life-saving commodities such as bed nets, indoor residual spray, diagnostics, treatment and seasonal malaria chemoprevention are in place in the next few weeks. Without immediate action, tens of millions of children, pregnant women, and at-risk communities will be left unprotected, which will lead to a precipitous spike in malaria cases and deaths. [According to the Malaria Atlas Project](#), continued disruptions and halted funding to PMI- funded programs will lead to an additional 5 million malaria cases and 43,200 malaria deaths by July 25, 2025; and an additional 14.6 million malaria cases and 105,000 malaria deaths by December 31, 2025.

We urge that all available resources be channeled to awards that have been deemed life-saving, are actively reinstated, and are capable of absorbing and scaling efforts across priority countries – such as Chemonics's Procurement and Supply Chain Management (PSM), Abt's Vector Control EVOLVE, and PATH's Service Delivery REACH programs. These organizations have recently completed internal staffing reorganizations and reductions in force to become more nimble and better aligned with the administration's priorities, and they are ready to deliver – what they lack is stable and timely funding.

Further, we're concerned that funding is only being approved for program activities through the end of 2025. We caution against short-term timeframes that would lead to unnecessary disruptions and gaps and don't reflect the planning and execution cycles required for effective global health programs. Life-saving malaria programs take many months to plan and negotiate and are most impactful when implemented over a 12-to-18 month period. Rigid deadlines risk weakening the successful outcomes that have been previously demonstrated and diminish the return on these investments of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, as PMI capacities transition to the State Department, we encourage you to ensure that someone is designated to serve in a leadership role- such as a Global Malaria Coordinator- and that there are a sufficient number of personnel who are knowledgeable and well-equipped to carry out the mission. Personnel are the technical and operational backbone- they provide expertise in technical areas like vector control and drug resistance; in operational functions such as supply chain management and procurement; and in contracting, processing, and managing awards to implementing partners. As you know well, the effectiveness and return on investment of foreign assistance programs depends not only on the amount we spend but how well we execute. Maintaining the expertise needed to deliver that impact ensures the program can run efficiently and effectively.

We are grateful for your leadership to ensure that the U.S. remains present and principled in its engagement abroad. Ensuring that PMI's FY24 appropriation is fully obligated and that malaria-fighting programs have sufficient and expert personnel as well as the operational runway to deliver impact is a clear and achievable way to demonstrate that commitment. As you emphasized in your recent hearing, now is the time for "deliberate, strategic engagement." Investing in proven and effective programs that save lives and combat malaria represent precisely the kind of high-impact, low-cost diplomacy that aligns with your vision.

We stand ready to support your efforts and look forward to working together to ensure that U.S. leadership in global health remains not only visible, but effective.

Sincerely,

American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
BASF  
Christian Connections for International Health  
Friends of the Global Fight  
International Public Health Advisors  
Malaria No More  
SC Johnson  
United to Beat Malaria  
Vestergaard

CC: Mike Needham  
Jeremy Lewin  
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