Introduction to Global Health

Summary

Through critically-needed investments for global health programs, the United States has helped save millions of lives, as well as contributed to making the world healthier, safer and more secure.

Global health programs seek to address the physical and mental health needs of individuals; treat and prevent the spread of infectious diseases; strengthen the capability of health workers and health systems; and increase access to healthcare services to improve the overall well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Overview

Why is global health critical?

- Americans have always valued caring for those in need, including the poor, those who are sick and the most vulnerable populations. These values have been reflected in the United States’ consistent investment in global health. To this end, the U.S. has been successful in reducing child deaths, slowing the spread of AIDS and other infectious or chronic conditions, responding quickly to health emergencies in times of disasters, and preventing and treating malnutrition.

- National borders do not stop the spread of disease. As such, addressing global health issues and working to prevent outbreaks directly impacts the health and well-being of Americans.

- Investing in the health care needs of individuals reduces the cost of future pandemics, long-term disability and premature death, and improves the ability of individuals in developing countries to contribute to their own economies. A healthy community leads to a healthy workforce that misses fewer days of work and can continually provide for their families.

- Investing in global health allows developing nations to move toward aid independence and increase their participation in the global economy.

“Now is no time to shy away from our health investments. Scientific innovation continues to produce miracles at an accelerating pace. International donors are stepping up to the plate. Many traditional aid recipients are putting more resources into their own domestic health. The U.S. investment – less than 1 percent of our federal budget – saves and transforms hundreds of thousands of lives every year. It’s hard to imagine a better return on investment.”

— Former Senator Bill Frist (R-TN)
Making Progress

- U.S. global health programs have treated approximately **5.1 million people living with HIV** and prevented the transmission of HIV to millions more.¹

- In FY2011, the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) and its partners distributed more than 42 million long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets and provided treatment to 45 million individuals.²

- Immunization programs save more than 3 million lives each year.³

- Each year, **USAID interventions help save the lives of more than 6 million children under the age of 5** and significantly reduce maternal deaths from pregnancy-related causes.⁴

- Over the past five years, the U.S. government has leveraged taxpayer dollars and $4 billion in donated medicines to provide over 600 million safe and effective neglected tropical disease treatments to approximately 251 million people cumulatively.⁵

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs helped reduce the number of new polio cases globally by more than 99 percent between 1988 and 2010.⁶** and the CDC-led global campaign to eradicate guinea worm disease has helped reduce the disease burden from 3.5 million cases per year in 1986 to near eradication today.⁷

U.S. Response and Strategy

The U.S. is at the forefront of global health, with targeted initiatives like the Child Survival Call to Action (led by USAID to end preventable child deaths) and Saving Mothers, Giving Life (a public-private partnership to reduce maternal mortality). The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and PMI, are helping to create an AIDS-free generation and reduce the burden of malaria. The U.S. government has also prioritized global health within its development programs through its Global Health Initiative (GHI). GHI looks to increase the impact of global health investments and achieve sustainable health outcomes.

At the same time, the U.S. government is not alone in its efforts to improve global health. Significant contributions are made by other nations, as well as multilateral organizations such as the World Health Organization; public-private partnerships such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI); private foundations; and civil society organizations. These donor partnerships allow global health funding to be leveraged across multiple health sectors to benefit and reach those who are in most need.

The U.S. is at a critical juncture in its global health efforts: budget pressures threaten the global health gains that have been made and jeopardize programming despite the growing consensus within Congress, across government agencies and throughout the broader global health community about what is working and what remains to be done. Capitalizing on our successes and meeting emerging global health challenges will require increased and sustained commitments by all donors.
Recommendations

The Administration should:

- **Maintain U.S. government support for overall global health programs and initiatives, including support for health systems strengthening.**
- **Continue partnerships with other donors, such as the private sector and civil society organizations, to most effectively leverage donor contributions to global health.**
- **Ensure that its global health efforts are aligned with the priorities of developing nations** so that U.S. investments are effective, sustainable and focused on building the capacity of local communities to provide for their future health needs.
- **Work to reduce inequities in access to quality health care as it invests in lower-income countries.** This requires increased engagement with vulnerable and traditionally marginalized populations, including women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- **Ensure that humanitarian health programs during crises lay a foundation for effective health systems** so nations can successfully transition from providing relief to development programs. Fragile states often lack the ability to partner with development agencies to deliver care and provide basic security to access health services, which is crucial to developing sustainable, lasting health systems.

Congress should:

- **Maintain appropriate funding level for all health accounts.** If the U.S. fails to live up to its commitments, the gains made in reducing incidences of maternal mortality, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV and other diseases in developing countries could stagnate or even reverse. Sustained U.S. investments in global health programs and health systems strengthening are crucial – health problems will only be more expensive and difficult to resolve in the future, especially with the rise of chronic non-communicable diseases (cancers, lung and heart disease, and diabetes) in all populations.
- **Continue to invest in global health research and evaluation programs** that develop and implement new technologies and tools to assist countries anticipate future health challenges.
- **Encourage federal agencies to ensure that their global health programs are integrated, recorded, monitored and evaluated** so efficiency improvements can continue to be made throughout the global health sector.
- **Provide adequate funding in order to train a capable health workforce.**
Global Health Appropriations Chart ($ in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>FY2010</th>
<th>FY2011</th>
<th>FY2012</th>
<th>FY2013 CR Post-Sequestration Estimate&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Health Initiative (GHP – USAID &amp; State)</td>
<td>7,874,000</td>
<td>7,829,310</td>
<td>7,917,860</td>
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<td>Global Health Programs (USAID)</td>
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<td>2,495,000</td>
<td>2,625,000</td>
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<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>549,000</td>
<td>548,900</td>
<td>605,550</td>
<td>594,155</td>
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<td>Family Planning/Reproductive Health in all accounts</td>
<td>648,500</td>
<td>613,770</td>
<td>610,000</td>
<td>598,521</td>
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<td>The GAVI Alliance</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>123,370</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>89,800</td>
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<td>Vulnerable Children (USAID)</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS (USAID)</td>
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<td>350,000</td>
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<td>Other Infectious Diseases (USAID)</td>
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<td>968,100</td>
<td>1,033,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>585,000</td>
<td>618,800</td>
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<td>637,768</td>
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<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>236,000</td>
<td>231,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neglected Tropical Diseases</td>
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<td>76,800</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>87,325</td>
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<td>Global Health Programs – State (PEPFAR Only)</td>
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<td>4,585,800</td>
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<td>Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria &amp; TB</td>
<td>1,050,000&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,045,800&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,300,000&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>CDC Global Health</td>
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<td>Water in all accounts</td>
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<td>329,037</td>
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<sup>a</sup> Estimate based on assumption of proportional increases or decreases from FY2012 levels for the global health subaccounts.
<sup>b</sup> Global Fund totals include $300 million (FY2010) and $297.3 million (FY2011) from Labor-HHS appropriations accounts.
<sup>c</sup> Due to a $250 million shift from bilateral to multilateral funding, the Global Fund received $1.3 billion in FY12 and PEPFAR received $4.243 billion.