



Policy Update: President Obama's FY2011 Budget Released

On February 1, 2010, President Obama released his FY2011 budget, which included a request for \$1 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. While this is \$100 million more than the President requested last year, it is \$50 million less than what the President signed into law for the Global Fund in FY2010. Currently, the Global Fund estimates it will need approximately \$1.75 billion from the U.S. in FY2011 to finance existing programs as well as launch a new round of grants. To date, the Global Fund has committed more than \$18 billion to finance AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria prevention and treatment programs, as well as strengthen health systems, in 144 countries around the world.

The same day, the State Department also released details of the [President's Global Health Initiative \(GHI\)](#), which is designed to create stronger, more sustainable health outcomes in resource-poor countries. Many of the Administration's principles outlined in the GHI reflect key characteristics of the Global Fund, such as country ownership, sustainability and integration. Friends looks forward to working with the Administration and Congress to align the U.S. government's global health strategy and funding with the dramatic needs of recipient countries.

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Melinda Gates and Dr. Michel Kazatchkine Travel to Benin



Melinda Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Gates Foundation; Global Fund Executive Director Dr. Michel Kazatchkine; Global Fund Ambassador Carla Bruni-Sarkozy; and Professor Dorothee Gazard, Chair of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism of Benin.

Image courtesy of the Global Fund/John Rae

Last month, Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund, traveled to Benin with two distinguished global health advocates – Melinda Gates, Co-chair and Trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, the Global Ambassador for the Protection of Mothers and Children against HIV/AIDS. In Benin, the group visited a health care facility focused on maternal and child health. They also met with women and children living with HIV to hear firsthand of the challenges and successes they face every day.

Links of Interest

[Saving Lives: Stories from the Fight](#)
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www.TheGlobalFight.org

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While AIDS prevalence in Benin is declining, the epidemic is becoming increasingly feminized. Women are bearing the brunt of this disease. Global Fund-financed programs like the one Mrs. Bruni-Sarkozy and Mrs. Gates visited are vital to the continued stabilization of the epidemic in Benin, not just to protect women but also to protect their children from being born with the disease.

To learn more about the trip, and to view photos and videos, [click here](#).

Prevention of Mother-to-child Transmission of AIDS in Tajikistan



Boigigul and her daughter Shakrona.

Image courtesy of the Global Fund/John Rae

While Tajikistan has a relatively small number of people infected with HIV/AIDS, the modes of transmission are beginning to change. HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan is moving from high-risk groups, such as intravenous drug users, to the general population. Because of this shift, the risk of mother-to-child transmission, which has played a small role in Eastern Europe's epidemic expansion to date, may increase. The Global Fund has approved \$36.8 million to HIV/AIDS grants in Tajikistan to support, in part, prevention of mother-to-child transmission activities.

One woman who benefited from this support is Boigigul. Boigigul learned that she was HIV-positive a few days after her husband died from tuberculosis. She was pregnant at the time, so she was prescribed drugs to prevent her from passing on the virus to her daughter. When her daughter, Shakrona, was born, she was also given drugs to help prevent her from developing HIV. While preventive medication is critical to ensuring that children of HIV-positive mothers are not infected, it is not the only precaution that must be taken. Breast milk substitutes, for example, are necessary. With support from the Global Fund, Boigigul received free infant formula milk for Shakrona, as well as food aid as the girl grew.

To learn more about Boigigul's story and the Global Fund's work in Tajikistan, [click here](#).

World TB Day is March 24

March 24 is World TB Day, and this year's theme is "Innovation." The 2010 campaign will focus on individuals around the world who have found new ways to stop tuberculosis and who serve as an inspiration to others. Be on the lookout for updates from Friends about events surrounding World TB Day. To learn more, [click here](#).