



The U.S. Approves \$1.05 Billion for the Global Fund in FY2012

Over the weekend, Congress gave final approval to an FY2012 omnibus spending bill, which contains \$1.05 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Global Fund is the world's most powerful tool in the fight against the three diseases, responsible for approximately two-thirds of funds spent on malaria and tuberculosis efforts, as well as financing for half of all HIV/AIDS treatment. To date, Global Fund-supported programs have treated 8.3 million people for tuberculosis, distributed 230 million insecticide-treated nets to prevent malaria infection and provided HIV/AIDS treatment to 3.3 million people. The bill, expected to be signed quickly by President Barack Obama, demonstrates continued strong U.S. leadership in the global fight against the three diseases. To read more about this, [click here](#).

On World AIDS Day, Reflection and Recommitment

December 1 marked the 23rd annual World AIDS Day. To mark the day, ONE and (RED) hosted a diverse and dynamic panel discussion titled "[The Beginning of the End of AIDS](#)," in Washington, D.C. that included such luminaries as President Obama, former Presidents Bush and Clinton, President of Tanzania Jakaya Kikwete, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), Bono, Alicia Keys, and many more. In his [speech \(begins at 0:38:18\)](#), President Obama announced the Administration's new target of reaching 6 million people with AIDS treatment by 2013. He also reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to its pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and urged other donor nations to "give the money that they promised" to support the lifesaving work of the Global Fund.

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) highlighted the longtime bipartisan support of HIV/AIDS programs and emphasized the moral imperative to help those affected by the pandemic. As Congress continues the difficult task of balancing the budget, Friends of the Global Fight is urging Congress to keep in mind the historic successes described by the panel and support a strong U.S. commitment to global HIV/AIDS, including a robust U.S. contribution to the Global Fund.

The Global Fund's 25th Board Meeting: Consolidated Transformation Plan Adopted

On November 21-22, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's Board of Directors gathered in Accra, Ghana, for its 25th Board Meeting. In an effort to transform the Global Fund into a more efficient and effective organization, the Board approved a Consolidated Transformation Plan (CTP) to continue its commitment to improve risk management, fiduciary controls and governance. The plan contains 31 projects, 162 deliverables and specific timelines to reform the organization in six major areas of transformation.

Links of Interest

"Faith-based Organizations and the Global Fund: Working Together to Save Lives"

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www.TheGlobalFight.org

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The CTP incorporates the recommendations of the High-level Independent Review Panel (issued earlier this year), the Secretariat's ongoing Plan for Comprehensive Reform, recommendations from the Office of the Inspector General and the Global Fund's Strategic Plan 2012-2016 into one, harmonious plan.

The Global Fund's 25th Board Meeting: Transformation of Funding Rounds

At the Board meeting, revised financial estimates due to the ongoing worldwide economic crisis were released that made clear that the Global Fund has less funding than previously anticipated for 2011 to 2013 and will be unable to finance new grants during that period. As a result, the Board delayed the next grant-making round and will use the extra time to transform it into a future funding opportunity that will be consistent with the new Global Fund strategy. This new funding stream, which is designed to ensure that resources are used as efficiently as possible and are focused on those most in need, is expected to begin financing new grants in early 2014, at the start of the next replenishment cycle.

To help bridge the gap in-country, existing grantees may apply for up to two years of funding through a Transitional Funding Mechanism that ensures continuation of essential prevention, treatment and care programs that are currently financed by the Global Fund, if they would otherwise face disruption as a result of grants expiring between January 1, 2012, and March 31, 2014. This means that no recipient will be forced to suspend any essential services as a consequence of this decision.

Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Ghana



A mother with her children at the TEMA and Korel Bu Teaching Hospitals.

Photo courtesy of Natasha Bilimoria.

During the Global Fund Board meeting, participants had a chance to visit Global Fund-supported sites that provide prevention, treatment and care to Ghanaian women, men and children. One site, the TEMA and Korel Bu Teaching Hospitals in Accra, is a partnership between the Global Fund, (RED) and the Ghanaian Ministry of Health. The hospitals — run by dedicated professionals and filled with healthy, active women and children — administer treatment to pregnant women to prevent the passage of HIV to their babies. The hospital leadership was proud to report that they have 100% success rate.

Board meeting participants met with doctors, nurses and researchers, and talked one-on-one with a wide range of women and men who receive both medical care and social support from the exceptional teams at these facilities. The women and men living with HIV/AIDS expressed heartfelt gratitude for their and their babies' health, and spoke with pride about their ability to be productive, work to support their families and participate in their communities.

The end of mother-to-child transmission of HIV is a goal within our grasp in the next four years, but the possibility of new treatment centers will be curbed without continued strong support from the U.S. government and other donors.