



July 15, 2021

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Power,

On behalf of the Global Health Council and the global health community, we again congratulate you on your confirmation as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). You take the helm of this critical U.S. agency as several global crises converge and threaten the health and stability of vulnerable communities in every corner of the world, placing disproportionate burdens on women and girls, youth, displaced persons, and underserved populations. President Biden is well-served by having someone with your extensive experience in this role.

We request an audience with you to discuss critical global health issues, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impacts, the immediate need for staffing in key global health positions, particularly the Global AIDS Coordinator, and the importance of increased resources for global health programming.

We were pleased to see that the White House released its *COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework* following successful passage of \$11.5 billion for the international response as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This overarching framework, however, is only the first step toward ensuring that ARP funding is spent as effectively and efficiently as possible. As USAID works on its plan to contribute to the *Framework*, we strongly urge you to ensure meaningful consultation with the global health community and local partners on efforts to accelerate equitable access to vaccines, improve pandemic preparedness, strengthen health systems, respond to gender-based violence, and address backsliding on key global health priorities, such as controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ending preventable child and maternal deaths, and expanding access to family planning and reproductive health services.

Further, we seek consistent transparency on how ARP funds are spent. For example, the Biden Administration's announcement that it would purchase and donate 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine was most welcome, but it is still not clear exactly how much it will cost, where the funding will come from, and how this purchase may impact ARP resources available for other needs, such as those that would support delivery and ensure that each vaccine becomes a vaccination.

Second, having key personnel in place is critical to both successful implementation of the ARP, as well as advancing USAID's regular global health workstreams. We were pleased that a nominee for Assistant Administrator for Global Health has been named, but remain concerned that, more than six months into the Administration, there is still no nominee for the position of Global AIDS Coordinator. We strongly urge you to work with the White House to underscore the urgent need for this critical appointment and help ensure it is filled as soon as possible. Notably, this is the longest amount of time that it has taken to nominate a Global AIDS Coordinator.



Finally, while the COVID-19 crisis continues to rage in countries with weak health systems and that do not have adequate or equitable access to vaccines and other prevention and treatment tools, we urge you to prioritize another issue: the global health funding request in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. We welcomed the President’s historic topline budget recommendation for USAID in FY22 and the \$800 million increase for global health security. Nevertheless, bilateral global health program budgets and many multilateral accounts have remained essentially flat over the last ten years, and the FY22 budget request missed an opportunity to set forth a holistic vision for U.S. global health programs—one that both bolsters pandemic preparedness *and* prioritizes increased investments in longstanding programs that ensure access to essential health services, address existing epidemics, and reduce inequality and gender inequity. These programs not only support key U.S. government objectives, but also help build stronger, more resilient health systems and well-trained health workforces that contribute to global health security. As USAID engages with the Department of State and the Office of Management and Budget on the FY23 budget request, it is critical that you personally advocate for the largest possible budget for Global Health Programs. The Biden Administration simply must increase resources to be able to realize its ambitious global health goals.

Again, we request a meeting with you and leading Global Health Council CEOs to discuss in greater detail these urgent issues. As we look to chart a path that will lead the international community out of this pandemic and promote equitable recovery, there will be no shortage of matters to discuss in the months to come. We hope to be a valuable resource for you and your staff, leveraging our decades of experience implementing programming and working with local partners.

Sincerely,

Global Health Council
American Heart Association
AVAC
Better World Campaign
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Friends of the Global Fight
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Global Network of Black People working in HIV
IntraHealth International
Malaria No More
Management Sciences for Health
Pandemic Action Network
PATH
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
RESULTS
Save the Children
Shot@Life
Treatment Action Group
United Nations Foundation
WaterAid
World Vision