

## Civil Society Statement Recognizing the Role of Global Health in Development

As organizations that work around the world to ensure healthier, safer lives for all people, we join together to support sustained and strengthened U.S. commitment to global health.

Health is the backbone of strong and stable communities, which makes global health – in addition to humanitarian relief, democracy and governance, disaster assistance, agriculture development, and education – a critical component of how the United States engages with the world. By investing in global health and development, the United States helps to build healthier and more self-reliant communities, which are more economically and politically stable. U.S. leadership in global health is critical to reaching the finish line on bold global health initiatives.

Global health programs also are some of the greatest successes of U.S. foreign assistance, and have contributed to tremendous gains in health around the world, including a halving of preventable child deaths, a 60 percent decrease in deaths from malaria, and a 45 percent reduction in maternal mortality since 1990. They are also some of the most critical, putting the U.S. at forefront of fighting future disease threats, building resilient health systems, and promoting global health security. Global health programs play an important role in meeting objectives across other development priorities, as well, including food security and gender equality.

As the Administration considers the organization of the U.S. government, including international development and diplomacy operations, it is critical to recognize and sustain global health functions that support maternal and child health; HIV/AIDs; tuberculosis; malaria; neglected tropical diseases; family planning and reproductive health; water, sanitation, and hygiene; nutrition; noncommunicable diseases; research and development; workforce development; and global health security.

Any reorganization of U.S. foreign aid and diplomacy operations must prioritize:

- **Distinct and deliberate tracks for development and diplomacy.** While development and diplomacy work hand-in-hand to promote our humanitarian and security interests, they offer different and unique perspectives on U.S. global engagement. U.S. global health efforts exemplify this distinction, as programs work to improve health in the most vulnerable populations worldwide, not just in those areas of strategic national interest. Accordingly, agenda-setting, priorities, and budgets for these two areas of foreign policy must remain distinct and deliberate.
- **Global health as a prominent and distinct feature of U.S. foreign aid and development.** Global health is multi-faceted and cross-cutting – and one that is not confined to national borders, low economic or humanitarian development status, or emergency operations. For U.S. humanitarian and strategic objectives, it is just as important for global health efforts to address challenges stemming from a natural disaster as it is to target endemic health issues that may prevent a country from achieving growth and stability. It is critical that any redesign or restructuring of U.S. development and diplomacy programs maintains a prominent and distinct place for global health that recognizes and supports the diverse and cross-functional health challenges facing low- and middle-income countries.
- **Maintaining and supporting technical expertise in development, including global health.** U.S. global health programs have a track record of success and high-impact because they are supported by strong and deep technical expertise at USAID and the State Department. To continue and build upon this legacy of success, it is vital to maintain and support technical experts for the full range of U.S. global health programs and priorities.

Global health is a critical component of U.S. development and diplomatic engagement, and must be sustained. As such, the unique attributes and value add of global health programs must receive appropriate attention, and be included at the highest levels of strategic discussions on government organization.

We strongly urge any redesign plan to commit to continued U.S. leadership in global health and support and sustain the cross-cutting development and diplomatic initiatives that help people live longer, healthier lives.

Action Against Hunger  
Advocates for Youth  
ALIMA USA  
American College of Cardiology  
American Heart Association  
American Public Health Association  
AVAC  
CARE USA  
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
CORE Group  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Elizabeth R Griffin Research Foundation  
FHI 360  
FIND  
Frontline Health Workers Coalition  
Fund for Global Health  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Global Health Council  
Global Health Strategies  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
HarvestPlus  
Health Systems Management  
Helen Keller International  
IMA World Health  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
IntraHealth International  
Johns Snow, Inc. (JSI)  
Millennium Water Alliance  
MMV  
Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Roundtable  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Council  
RESULTS Austin  
SPOON  
TB Alliance  
The American Academy of Pediatrics  
The Hunger Project  
Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases  
Washington Global Health Alliance  
WaterAid  
White Ribbon Alliance