

Fund the Global Fund Campaign

Waking up Congress to the importance of US support for the Global Fund. We demand that congress appropriate an additional \$1,116,000,000 dollars to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria for the Fiscal Year 2009 (for a total of \$2 billion dollars of GF funding).

First discovered in 1981, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has made a devastating impact on our world. Just last year, it killed an estimated 2.1 million people, with 2.5 million more infected¹, concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, but ready to erupt in third wave countries like China, India, and Russia². Because of the nature of the disease and its association with stigmatized populations, it is very hard to combat, so we must fight together!

Student Global AIDS Campaign, this 2008-09 year, is working to help fund the fight against AIDS around the world with two particular actions. One, we are supporting the GF (GF), which provides an outstanding portion of international AIDS funding. Two, we are supporting the continued pressure of the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and its revision, US legislation.

Actions You Can Take

1. Do a phone zap or a fax-zap towards the representatives on our target list. That means that a group of people make a lot of phone calls and/or faxes. Create a script with your demands and some facts to back it up (look at the list that follows). You can also personalize the attached letter to create a fax zap. Be creative! Make sure that the fonts cause your message pop out. Through flooding the office with calls and or faxes, it makes our targets aware of how many people support our demands. (Don't worry: you aren't inconveniencing your congresspeople. As a constituent you have a right to raise their awareness about important issues.)

Try to make this a campus-wide event! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Set up a table in a place where lots of people pass by. Serve refreshments. You and your fellow chapter members can provide your cell phones so that people walking by can borrow one to make calls.
- Go down the row of people standing in line for lunch or dinner (you can call at night and leave messages too!)
- Set up some display (like a mosquito net or a giant condom) and catch people as they walk by.
- Get sympathetic professors to take five minutes at the beginning of class for everyone to call

1 UNAIDS, WHO <http://data.unaids.org>

2 Friends of the Global Fight, <http://www.theglobalfight.org>

2. Organize a mail-in and flood our targets with letters. Or your chapter can create funky postcards that stand out, or send them a relic that could stand for the GF, like child's play money, or fake red iPod's (How many project red products would we have to buy to make up for the US shortcomings on the GF?)

3. You can personally write a letter to the editor or you can conduct a group of people to write their own letters. Target both a conservative and liberal local newspaper. Liberal papers are more likely to publish, and the conservative papers will realize that more people care about this issue.

4. Contact your SGAC regional coordinator or national coordinator, and see what you and your surrounding chapters can do as a group, like pull funds to travel to D.C., to have a vigil, or all converge on your representative's in state office.

5. Try to contact other organizations in your local area and work together to make presentations on campus and local high schools. Talk about the GF and at the end of your presentation, have them sign postcards so you can send them to our targets. Feel free to use this kit as your source of curriculum!

6. Have a GF awareness week and organize phone zaps and presentations as certain events! You can flood dorm halls with flyers and get the whole campus involved! Make this YOUR campaign to fight against AIDS!

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

What is it?

The GF to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria was created in 2002 as an international mechanism to combat these three diseases, which together kill more than 6 million people every year, by effectively dispensing large sums of money around the world. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland and is responsible for providing over 20 percent of international funding for AIDS, two-thirds of international funding for tuberculosis, and three-fourths of funding to fight malaria. To date, the program has awarded more than US\$ 11.3 billion in 136 different countries against all three diseases³. Grants are awarded through "proposal rounds." So far there have been seven proposal rounds; round eight will occur in November 2008. To help, we must make sure the US government continues its support of the program.

How does it work?

The GF operates in an unusual but highly effective method. In no way does it directly implement any action programs, but rather it works to efficiently supplement the funding of programs already in place. Its general operating principles are outlined on their website (<http://www.theglobalfund.org/en>) as

3 The GF to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/>

follows:

- Operate as a financial instrument, not an implementing entity. The GF doesn't implement programs directly; rather, it helps finance programs that rely on local expertise.
- Make available and leverage additional financial resources. The GF seeks to supplement already existing funding—not to replace it. As such, it only provides assistance where it can be assured that it is not replacing other resources.
- Support programs that reflect national ownership. The GF aims to create partnerships between countries receiving GF money, and to strengthen local ownership over programs.
- Operate in a balanced manner in terms of different regions, diseases and interventions. This means that the GF gives priority to countries and regions with the greatest disease burden who lack financial resources; additionally, they also give grants to countries with emerging epidemics, in an effort to halt progression of the disease. Because of a disproportionate disease burden, 57% of funds go to Sub-Saharan Africa. Two-thirds of all money is for AIDS, with 25% for malaria and 14% for TB. (Based on statistics from the 2007 proposal round.)
- Pursue an integrated and balanced approach to prevention and treatment. This goes in line with the above point. The GF puts emphasis on funding both prevention and treatment programs, depending on local needs.
- Evaluate proposals through independent review processes. There is a Technical Review Panel which evaluates proposals and makes sure that funding is directed toward programs that will have the “greatest chances of success.”
- Establish a simplified, rapid and innovative grant-making process and operate transparently, with accountability. Information about the grant-making process and progress of programs is available to the public via the website.

What has it done?

Since its inception, it is estimated that the GF's programs have saved more than 2 million lives. GF tracks the results of its programs and mandates that grant recipients issue reports, which are monitored by “Local Fund Agents.” The purpose of this is to make sure that the money is going to where it should be. Between December 2006 and December 2007 the amount of people on ARV treatment for HIV increased by 88%—from 777,000 to 1,400,000.

In Rwanda, where the after effects of the Rwanda genocide left approximately 70% of the 250,000 women who had been raped infected with HIV, the GF has provided over 326,000 people with HIV counseling and testing in 66 health centers; given 168,141 pregnant women treatment to prevent HIV transmission to their babies; trained 480 youth educators; and put 4,115 people on life-saving ARV medication. Other success stories of the GF in the fight against HIV/AIDS include ARV treatment for almost 7,000 people in South Africa and 5,534 people in Haiti; over 1.2 million have received HIV prevention education in Haiti.

What needs to be done?

By 2010 the GF will need an estimated \$6 to 8 billion dollars in order to continue funding over 500 programs in more than 136 countries. The US has historically been an important support of the GF, providing around one-third of all of its money. It is critical that the US maintain its role of strong supporter because the GF is able to use the backing of the US as a means to gain assistance from other

donors. Congress has allocated \$841 million dollars to the GF for the fiscal year 2008. While this does represent the highest amount that the US has given to date, the share of funding that the US is giving is decreasing.

It is imperative that the US maintain its role as a strong donor in order for other donors to continue supporting the Fund, and for it to remain strong. According to RESULTS⁴, a non-profit organization that works on issues of global poverty, in order for the GF to meet its funding need of \$6 to 8 billion by 2010, the US needs to give \$2 billion dollars for fiscal year 2009. This would represent a contribution of one-third of the GF's needs, the US fair share that we have historically contributed. The GF continues to be the best entity for funding effective HIV/AIDS comprehensive sex education programs and for purchasing generic drugs. (On the other hand, PEPFAR continues to favor abstinence-only-until-marriage education, and to purchase non-generic drugs from US companies, thereby reducing the number of people that can receive ARV treatment.) Therefore, allocating more money to the GF is essential to the fight against this pandemic. The possibility exists within the January Supplemental bill to allocate more money for the GF. Lobbying our congresspeople around this issue could be a potential area of campaign work for SGAC during the fall semester.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

What is it?

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was first launched in 2003 by President Bush to combat global HIV/AIDS⁵. Despite the crippling restrictions on funds by this plan, it still has made a great difference for the fight, being the largest international health commitment ever initiated by any nation to combat a single disease.

However, it is important to recognize the shortcomings of PEPFAR as compared with the GF. As mentioned above, many populations associated with the disease are stigmatized. Some conservative ideologies of the Bush Campaign and Administration have interfered in the most efficient use of PEPFAR's funding, like funding for non-comprehensive sex education, or detrimental restrictions on foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving funding. Within PEPFAR there was \$100 million in support of abstinence until marriage, fidelity in marriage, monogamous relationships, and avoidance of unhealthy sexual behaviors among youth aged 10 to 24⁶. Unfortunately, "delaying sex does not protect people from HIV unless they protect themselves once they become sexually active."⁷

To reauthorize the plan, President George W. Bush in July 2008 signed into law H.R. 5501, the

4 Results International, <http://www.results.org/website/article.asp?id=3320>

5 PEPFAR Official Website, <http://www.pepfar.gov/>

6 U.S. Agency for International Development, "Abstinence-Based AIDS Prevention Programs Effectively Stem the Spread of AIDS." Ed. Vigi Wagner. 2007

7 "Abstinence-Based AIDS Prevention Programs Fail to Halt the Global Epidemic." Jonathan Cohen and Tony Tate.

Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS. The new plan authorizes up to US\$48 billion over the next 5 years. While the money going to abstinence only sex education is no longer earmarked (thanks to the Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth Act of 2007 or PATHWAY Act), problems with the reauthorization still exist, like the prostitution pledge which requires foreign NGOs to pledge to not help any sex worker clients of theirs.

What has it done?

The reauthorization of PEPFAR increased its numbers to allow up to US\$ 48 billion to combat global HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, US\$ 39 billion of which is designated for PEPFAR bilateral HIV/AIDS programs and U.S. contributions to the GF.

After the *first* 5-year block, when the President launched PEPFAR in 2003, “approximately 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Today, PEPFAR supports lifesaving treatment for over 1.7 million people worldwide, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. PEPFAR has also supported care for more than 6.6 million people, including 2.7 million orphans and vulnerable children. To date, PEPFAR has allowed nearly 200,000 children to be born HIV free.”⁸

The 10-year program supports treatment for at least 3 million people, prevention of 12 million new infections, and care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

What needs to be done?

The prostitution loyalty oath still remains an obstacle in making sure that PEPFAR is as effective as possible. It is written into the language of PEPFAR that no funds from PEPFAR may be given to any group or organization that does not have an explicit policy condemning prostitution. This is problematic because it inhibits the efforts of public health workers to provide education and assistance to sex workers, and to therefore stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. It violates the human rights of an already marginalized population to have access to life-saving information.⁹ Additionally, the oath is unconstitutional. In 2006, two US District Courts declared that the oath violates First Amendment rights. Of course, this only applies to US organizations and is not applicable to grantees from other countries not under the protection of the US constitution.¹⁰

In the original draft, legislators struck the pledge, but the House retained the requirement after negotiations with the White House. Consequently, we must work hard to pass legislation modifying the

8 PEPFAR Official Website, <http://www.pepfar.gov/>

9 CHANGE. “Implications of U.S. Policy Restrictions for Programs Aimed at Commercial Sex Workers and Victims of Trafficking Worldwide.” 2005. Available from <http://www.genderhealth.org/pubs/ProstitutionOathImplications.pdf>

10 CHANGE. “Prostitution Loyalty Oath: A U.S. Global AIDS Policy Restriction in Violation of First Amendment. 2008. Available from <http://www.genderhealth.org/loyaltyoath.php>

bill. This pledge represents a failure on the part of the US to acknowledge human rights, and within the United States would actually be deemed unconstitutional. Not only is the idea of the restriction, as explained above, unconstitutional, but we must consider the situation of prostitutes in other countries.

CHANGE, the Center for Health and Gender Equity, also find problems with PEPFAR’s lack of a focus on women and young girls with HIV/AIDS. “In 2007, women represented half of HIV infections worldwide, and 61 percent of HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most heavily impacted by HIV and AIDS”¹¹. With rising impact on the female population, PEPFAR should include specific funding to target treatment and prevention for women. Evidence shows that family planning providers are critical for women and girls in need of HIV prevention and testing, but political conflict between the House and Senate did not allow family planning legislation to pass.

Sample Call

Calling Your Congressperson has never been so easy! Simply begin at the top of this chart, choose a box from each column, and read the demand at the bottom when you make your call to the politician.

“Hi, my name is _____, and I’m calling from the Student Global AIDS Campaign chapter in __ (your city) __ to wake __ (Senator/Representative) __ up to the Global Fund...”

Personal Touch	Issue Detail	“The Ask”
My trip to Africa / a developing country showed me that AIDS, TB, and Malaria are devastating developing countries.	...there are 40 million people with AIDS right now, and the epidemic is still in its infancy.	Please support...
As a future nurse / doctor, it is important to me that we take every step to fight the AIDS crisis at home and abroad.	...after the devastating hurricanes this year, now is not the time to be cutting health services for poor and working Americans, nor paying for relief for the poor at home by shortchanging the poorer overseas.	We need (name of senator/representative) to support...
I want to thank (name of senator/representative) for his past support for the Global AIDS Fund. I am calling to urge him to meet the challenge again.	...in order to meet the new G8 pledge to reach universal treatment for people with AIDS in need,	I urge (name of senator/representative) to support...

<p>I really appreciated that (name of senator/representative) has made important announcements lately about avian flu. I want to ask that he lead on an additional issue.</p>	<p>...the epidemics of AIDS, TB and malaria are a threat to global health and security.</p>	<p>It's important to me and to my [community/ church/ classmates/ group] that (name of senator/representative) contribute...</p>
<p>I / My community / family / friend is impacted by HIV/AIDS and we need (name of senator/representative) to help.</p>	<p>...the U.S. has promised people living with AIDS that it will fund its fair-share of the Global Fund.</p>	<p>Please ask (name of senator/representative) to push for...</p>

...\$2 billion for the Global Fund for the Fiscal Year 2009. Thank you very much. Bye for now.

Sample Letter

Your Name Here
Your Address here

DATE

The Honorable [elected official]
Address
Fax

Dear [Senator/Congressman],

As a member of the Student Global AIDS Campaign, I am writing to urge you to allocate the United States' fair share of 1/3 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GF). According to RESULTS, a non-profit organization that works on issues of global poverty, in order for the GF to meet its funding need of \$6 to 8 billion by 2010, **the US needs to give \$2 billion dollars for fiscal year 2009. This would represent a contribution of one-third of the GF's needs, the US fair share (the rationale being that since we represent around 1/3 of the world's wealth, we should fund 1/3 of the GF) that we have historically contributed.**

Established in 2002, the GF is an independent foundation that gives money to grassroots, community-based initiatives to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Countries have the ability to write proposals based on the unique situation of their country. This process gives unique relationships between private and public sectors which gives the foundation its success. Moreover, the GF website gives transparency to this process by providing information on all of the proposals and progress reports. The GF approached treatment and prevention as a means for effectiveness. This makes the GF the most effective

means of dispersing money to fight HIV/AIDS.

The successes of the GF are apparent. For example, in South Africa, more than 6,900 people receive ARV treatment through programs funded by the GF. In Haiti, over 1.2 million at-risk youth are being reached out with prevention education. And The GF has given a total of \$14.6 million dollars over the course of four years to Rwanda, where during the genocide in 1994, 250,000 women were raped, 70 percent of whom contracted HIV. This money has gone to voluntary counseling and HIV testing services for 326,000 people in 66 health centers. The Gates Foundation hails the GF as being "one of the most important health initiatives in the world."

Congress recently authorized \$48 billion dollars for PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), of which \$841 million dollars is to go to the GF for the fiscal year 2008. While this does represent the highest amount that the US has given to date, the share of funding that the US is giving to the GF has actually decreased.

The GF continues to be the best entity for funding effective HIV/AIDS comprehensive sex education programs and for purchasing generic drugs. (On the other hand, PEPFAR continues to favor abstinence-only-until-marriage education, and to purchase non-generic drugs from US companies, thereby reducing the number of people that can receive ARV treatment.) Therefore, allocating more money to the GF is essential to the fight against this pandemic. The possibility exists within the January Supplemental bill to allocate more money for the GF. I urge you to support authorizing \$2 billion dollars for the GF. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Name

Student Global AIDS Campaign

School

City, State

Targets

We selected members of the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Congress as targets, because Congress has the capacity to propose and pass the needed legislation, and Margaret Lidstone, from the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, is the liason between the U.S. Government and the Global Fund. Senators and U.S. Representatives, who are either chairs or ranking members in committees that are pertinent to the issue, have been listed below with their contact information. Committee chairs are members of the majority party (Democratic Party), and ranking members are from the minority party (Republican Party).

Office of US Global AIDS Coordinator

Margaret G. Lidstone

Director of Multilateral Diplomacy

Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator

U.S. Department of State, SA-29 2nd Floor

Washington, DC

United States
Phone: (202) 663 2440
Fax: (202) 663 2979
Email: lidstonemg@state.gov

U.S. Senators

Senate Budget Committee

Chair

Senator Kent Conrad
North Dakota
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3403
Phone: (202) 224-2043
Fax: (202) 224-7776

Ranking Member

Senator Judd Gregg
New Hampshire
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3324

Senate Appropriations Committee

Chair

Senator Robert Byrd
West Virginia
311 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3954

Ranking Member

Senator Thad Cochran
Mississippi
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2402
Phone: (202) 224-5054

Senate State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee

Chair

Senator Patrick Leahy
Vermont

433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4242

Ranking Member

Senator Judd Gregg
New Hampshire
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3324

Senate Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

Chair

Senator Tom Harkin
Iowa
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3254
Fax: (202) 224-9369

Ranking Member

Senator Arlen Specter
Pennsylvania
711 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-4254
Fax: 202-228-1229

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chair

Senator Joseph Biden
Delaware
201 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5042
Fax: (202) 224-0139

Ranking Member

Senator Richard Lugar
Indiana
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401
Phone: (202) 224-4814
Fax: (202) 228-0360

U.S. Representatives

House Budget Committee

Chair

Rep. John Spratt
South Carolina, 5th District
1401 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5501
Fax: (202) 225-0464

Ranking Member

Rep. Paul Ryan
Wisconsin, 1st District
1113 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3031
Fax: (202) 225-3393

House Appropriations Committee

Chair

Rep. David Obey
Wisconsin, 7th District
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907
Phone: (202) 225-3365

Ranking Member

Rep. Jerry Lewis
California, 41st District
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5861
Fax: (202) 225-6498

House State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee

Chair

Rep. Nita Lowey
New York, 18th District
2329 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6506

Fax: (202) 225-0546

Ranking Member

Rep. Frank Wolf
Virginia, 10th District
241 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5136
Fax: (202) 225-0437

House Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

Chair

Rep. David Obey
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2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4907
Phone: (202) 225-3365

Ranking Member

Rep. James Walsh
New York, 25th District
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-4042

House Foreign Affairs Committee

Chair

Rep. Howard Berman
California, 28th District
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4695
Fax: (202) 225-3196

Ranking Member

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Florida, 18th District
2160 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515-0918
Phone: (202) 225-3931
Fax: (202) 225-5620