



Global Response Vital to Fight Pandemic

As a leader in global health and development, the United States must urgently respond to contain and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and protect hard-fought gains in global health in low-income countries. Although the virus has caused near universal disruption, it's the communities facing poverty, already pushed to the margins, that face the greatest risks. [A new World Bank estimate suggests that COVID-19 will drive over 100 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.](#)

When considering supplemental COVID-19 funding, RESULTS calls all members of Congress to urge Leadership to include no less than \$20 billion in foreign aid for health, humanitarian efforts, and development in any emergency response legislation. Congress must respond to the global pandemic and mitigate the secondary impacts and economic shocks that deepen extreme poverty.

Supplemental Requests

| Program | COVID-Supplemental Request |
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| Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria | \$4 billion over two years |
| Tuberculosis | \$200 million, including at least \$35 million for the Global Drug Facility |
| Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance | \$4 billion to prepare for the rollout of a new COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it becomes available on the market |
| Global Hunger and Nutrition (International Disaster Assistance & Food for Peace) | \$2 billion for Anti-Hunger efforts, with at least \$500 million for Nutrition |

Stepping Up the Fight Against Infectious Diseases

Decades of progress enabled by U.S. leadership are in jeopardy as COVID-19 presents an urgent threat to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The U.S. government has provided annual support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria alongside the U.S. bilateral global health programs, which include the global tuberculosis program at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It is clear those who are immunocompromised – such as with HIV/AIDS, are more susceptible to COVID-19, and lives are at stake if we don't act now.

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GLOBAL POLICY

- [June surveys from Global Fund recipients](#) report that 80 percent of HIV programs reported disruption to service delivery (21 percent with high or very high disruptions); while 76 percent of TB services have been disrupted. Reports from India show an 80 percent decline in new TB cases being reported during the lock downs. That means massive delays in TB treatment.
- Estimates of the potential impact of COVID-19 on TB deaths are shocking. With a three-month lockdown and a ten-month restoration of services the world could see an additional 6.3 million cases of TB and an additional 1.4 million TB deaths between 2020 and 2025.

Maintaining U.S. leadership and providing supplemental resources for partner countries to address the COVID-19 pandemic will be critical for fighting these leading killers, averting the disruption of health services, and mitigating secondary impacts. **The Global Fund was one of the first and fastest organizations to get financial resources to partner governments to address COVID-19, but without additional investment, those funds will be depleted in August.**

More funds are needed urgently now to continue lifesaving COVID-19 response programs in partner countries. **Congress should appropriate an additional \$4 billion over 2 years for Global Fund efforts and shore up USAID's bilateral tuberculosis response with at least \$200 million in the next emergency response bill.**

Ensuring Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccine

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has a proven track record of reliability, transparency, and effectiveness throughout its 20-year history; and has [helped save over 13 million lives](#) by harnessing public and private sector innovation, working with vulnerable countries to build health system capacity, and shaping vaccine markets to provide access to vital vaccines. Gavi is uniquely positioned to ensure the poorest countries around the world receive vaccines needed to defeat COVID-19.

Gavi adapted quickly to the needs coronavirus presents. But, with increased resources Gavi could:

- Get COVID-19 vaccines to the world's most vulnerable more quickly. Gavi recently launched the [Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). With full funding, this will help provide predictability in the vaccine market. In turn, this will incentivize manufacturers to invest in building capacity to produce and quickly roll out a vaccine in low-income countries once one is available. The first phase of vaccine delivery through the end of 2021 will focus on the highest-risk groups, like healthcare workers.
- Support roll out of COVID-19 vaccine from 2022 and beyond. Demand for the vaccine will not stop after 2021 and may increase as countries will likely need to vaccinate beyond the initial highest-risk groups. Widespread vaccination is necessary to fully defeat the disease.

Investments from the U.S. are critical to leverage funds from other donors for greater market shaping effect. **Congress should support \$4 billion for Gavi in the next emergency response legislation to ensure the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to low-income countries as soon as a vaccine comes to market.**



Fighting Famine and Malnutrition

Childhood malnutrition goes hand-in-hand with poverty globally: it is both a consequence and a key driver of poverty. The consequences of [chronic malnutrition](#), such as stunting, are devastating and permanent, but they are also entirely preventable by providing women and children with the right vitamins, micronutrients, and calories in the 1,000 day window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday.

In the time of coronavirus, the issues of hunger and malnutrition are on the rise. [Without urgent action, the number of people facing hunger is expected to double to 265 million by the end of 2020.](#) Food aid is a critical component of the COVID-19 response. Malnutrition contributes to nearly half of the deaths of children under five, and in projections of the impact of disruption to health and nutrition services, [wasting, a form of severe malnutrition, is the single biggest driver of increased child deaths.](#) An urgent humanitarian response to improve food security and malnutrition is needed to fight child deaths and stunting globally.

Congress must appropriate at least \$2 billion toward anti-hunger efforts, in the international disaster assistance space, in any emergency response legislation. We urge that all of these programs focus on the quality of nutrition in their humanitarian aid, especially as they address hunger for women and young children. Because of this, we ask that anti-hunger efforts in humanitarian space specifically call for fighting malnutrition and preventing wasting in children.