

Global Response Needed for Global 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 70 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
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 in support for Gavi to maintain routine immunization and to prepare for the roll out of a new COVID-19 vaccine as that 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, but the disruption in health services is less clear.

GLOBAL POLICY

- June surveys from Global Fund recipients report that 85 percent of HIV programs reported disruption to service delivery (18 percent with high or very high disruptions); while 78 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. **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 Access to Immunization for All

Access to vaccines have been a key driver in decreasing under-five child mortality in the world. But in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, routine immunization services are substantially hindered in at least 68 countries, including many who receive Gavi support.. This is likely to [affect approximately 80 million children under the age of one](#) living in these countries.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is the leading international organization driving the equitable delivery of life-saving vaccines for children, and it has quickly adapted to the new needs coronavirus presents. But, with increased resources Gavi could:

- [Support low-income countries to maintain immunization programs during the COVID-19 crisis.](#) This is critical to avoid multiple disease outbreaks as countries respond to COVID-19. Priorities include protective equipment and training health workers who deliver immunizations.
- Accelerate the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine in low and middle-income countries once it is developed. Gavi has extensive experience shepherding new vaccine introduction, working collaboratively with vaccine manufacturers, governments, and civil society.

Congress should appropriate an additional \$4 billion for Gavi in any emergency response legislation to reach more children and to accelerate COVID-19 delivery efforts in developing countries as soon as it 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.