Results

Monthly National Webinar

Saturday, January 8, 2022

TYPEWELL CAPTIONING PROVIDED BY:

CAPTIONACCESS

contact@captionaccess.com

www.captionaccess.com

JS

\* \* \* \* \*

This is being provided in a rough-edited format. This transcript reflects the transcriber’s best effort to express the full meaning intended by the speakers. It is not a verbatim transcript.

\* \* \* \*

[Captioner working on turning off Zoom auto-captioning; missed first two minutes]

Michael: As many of you remember, last November 19, the House passed the recovery package, also known as the Build Back Better act. This bill is a number of things, including extending the child tax credit, restoring eligibility for immigrants, extending a larger earned income tax credit through 2022, etc. Also there is money in pandemic preparedness, which includes increasing global vaccine preparedness.

Since the House passed this bill, the Senate has turned to the bill. Unfortunately it has stalled in the Senate. Some of you may have seen this. Senator Joe Manchin from West Virginia said he won't support the current version of the Build Back Better bill. He has concerns about inflation, concerns about some of the policy versions that were included in Build Back Better. As a reminder, to pass the Build Back Better in the Senate, you need all 50 votes from Democrats, and also the tie-breaking vote from VP Harris. Once it passes, it then must go back to the House of Representatives for one final vote. So when Manchin says that he won't support the current version of Build Back Better, that means we don't have all the votes to get this moved forward. Negotiations are ongoing, and what we are hearing currently is that the action of Build Back Better has currently been delayed until the end of January. The Senate in particular is considering voting rights legislation, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. That's really high on the Senate's priority. We won't see any action on the bill until the Senate is done considering voting rights legislation.

While negotiations are ongoing, this currently means that the key negotiation policies that we've been advocating for and talking to our members of Congress about most of last year may actually be excluded.

We need to ask our members of Congress to pass this bill with the key historic and antipoverty policies. That includes funding for housing choice vouchers and permanent refundability for the extended child tax credit. There's a plethora of resources available online, and we also have staff to support you and to answer any questions that you may have.

One thing I wanted to add is that we also keep a blog. So you can check that online and keep in touch with what's happening on the Hill.

Much of the work that we did on Build Back Better last year actually feeds into the broader goals of our campaign heading into the new year. What this means in the housing space primarily is that we show Congress the role it must play in attacking the housing crisis in Congress.

When we started working on Build Back Better last year, our main goal was universal housing assistance. There are rising wages that have not kept in pace with rents going up. There's still an affordable housing supply shortage, and the supply being built now is to support the higher end of the market. A lot of the investments that Congress passed last year on rental assistance are temporary, and we are really looking for a long-term housing investment, which feeds into that broader campaign goal for 2022. Also as a reminder, last year the eviction moratorium was struck down. We haven't seen a lot of chatter or news reports or media reports about that, but that is still ongoing, and we expect evictions to rise in the next couple months as that moratorium has expired.

Universal rental assistance feeds into and complements our racial justice work. Housing justice is racial justice. Housing affects communities of color and other historically disadvantaged groups. I posted an opinion piece from the New York Times that really puts into context the cost of not passing the Build Back Better or passing it without the key housing investments we are all looking for. I'll put a link on this opinion piece because it's really a great piece that came out last year. One thing I would also flag is that a lot of the proposals being considered right now that are ongoing do not include housing investments. So we need to make sure Congress hears from us about the importance of these housing investments moving forward.

All of this to say a lot of families seeking the child tax credit will have a disruption because Congress is not able to pass Build Back Better. I'm hoping that my colleague Meredith will be able to explain this better than me. Meredith, over to you.

Meredith: I hope you're staying healthy and safe in really challenging times right now. I also want to offer a special welcome to many advocates joining for the first time.

Until the last year or so, you might have wondered, why would an antipoverty organization like Results focus on tax policy? Obviously the tax code gives us the money we need for spending on antipoverty investments. Also tax policy often exacerbates inequality. Often tax policy can solidify barriers for women and intentionally excludes immigrants, and unfortunately that continues.

So tax policy also can be an opportunity to create opportunity and reduce poverty, and now many of us are aware of this because we just saw this last year. The transformational changes to the tax code in 2021 affected the poverty rate, especially for children. Many of you worked to get emergency expansions of the child tax credit and also the earned income tax credit passed into law. They made a big difference. Unfortunately those key changes expired officially just a week ago. So we are going to do what it takes in 2022 to make lasting changes to our tax code, not just for this year but beyond.

With that, can we go to the next slide, please?

Let me talk through, because I think it's helpful to have a refresher, all of us who are kind of recovering and catching up hopefully after a break over the holidays.

So for the first time children and families with no income or very low income got the full value of the child tax credit. You can see that in this visual on the very left, where higher amounts kick in immediately rather than fading in with a slope. The blue line illustrates the changes in 2021.

Overall 9/10 families got the expanded child tax credit last year. This is something really crucial that's impacting a lot of different folks. Next slide, please.

So those changes meant that 27 million children and their families got the full child tax credit for the first time this past year. But those families are left out of the full child tax credits in 2022 and beyond until we successfully pass legislation that continues what was in place for 2021. I want to give you an example of what that looks like for one of those 27 million folks.

A single parent working as a home health aide who earned $17,000 a year, they got it, but not the full amount. Then in 2021, the child tax credit's total for this family would have been $6600. This is huge even with the option of the monthly payments helping people make ends meet. I just want to make it real because that's, for instance that boost in income makes a big difference.

In this next slide, you can see the impact the child tax credit has had on reducing the number of children under the federal poverty line. This is the November data from our friends at Columbia University. As we engage in pushing for historic policies that can produce poverty, it's going to be important that we make it real. Those of us who can speak directly to the child tax credit and the impact it's had on our families or our communities, we share that information. One policy piece in particular as we close out this overview piece is this idea in the next slide around the full refundability of the child tax credit, and in particular how important that is for closing racial poverty gaps. Of those 27 million children who were previously left out of the whole child tax credit was roughly half of all black children and half of Latino children because of the way that those families are overrepresented in the low-paid work because of historical and ongoing racism.

That's kind of an overview of where things stand. To be frank, I know many of you may be feeling discouraged. When we asked what was going to make the biggest difference in the house, they said sustained drumbeat from our constituents.

Going to turn this over to Errolyn, who will talk on how to make an impact on the CTC.

Errolyn: Thank you, Meredith. I'm joining you from the District of Columbia. EPIC stands for Engage, Problem, Inform on the Problem.

We'll go through this several times. We hope you'll stay on mute during this section, but shout out those answers verbally. The third time, I'll leave out important pieces of information, and I want you to think about that information this time and internalize it. And I'll go through again and fill in whatever it is after you've thought about it. The fourth time, we'll just practice. Maybe with someone in your home or just by yourself.

As a reminder, this first time when we go through, you'll listen to may deliver the EPIC message. In 2021, Congress passed a major expansion of the child tax credit. This change made the full CTC available for the first time to 27 million of the lowest income children and allowed families to receive this credit as a monthly payment. But this change expired on December 31, with millions of children at risk of falling back into poverty in 2022. The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. And the impact has been immediate. Since the monthly payment started in July 2021, nearly 4 million children have been lifted out of poverty. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that the new CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45%. In November 2021, the house extended the expanded CTC another year as part of the Build Back Better act.

Congress must extend the expanded CTC income, especially full refundability for all low income families and the monthly payment option.

So again, we just completed step 1, which was you listening to me delivering the EPIC message and remembering. This time I'll go through the message again and leave out key information. Whatever the key information is, you will shout that out. Again, I'd love to hear your beautiful voices, but we will leave you on mute so it's not chaotic.

In 2021, Congress passed a major expansion of the child tax credit. This change made the full CTC available for the first time to how many of the lowest income children? 27 million of the lowest income children, and allowed families to receive the credit as a what payment? As a monthly payment. But this change expired on December 31, putting millions of children at risk of doing what? Falling back or deeper into poverty in 2022. The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in the generation. And the impact has been immediate. Since the monthly payments started in July 2021, how many children? Nearly 4 million children have been lifted out of poverty. Researchers at Columbia University estimate the new CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning what percentage? 45%. In November 2021, the house extended the expanded CTC for how long? Another year. As part of the Build Back Better act. However, the bill has done what? Stalled in the Senate, putting far too many children and families in financial peril as the new year starts. Congress must extend the expanded CTC, especially what? Full refundability for low income families. And what else? The payment option. Will you urge your Senate colleagues in leadership to do what? Make passing the CTC extension the top priority in early 2022? How may I follow-up with you on this?

I love seeing you all talking with each other if you're in the same room. I love seeing the responses and chat. I'm really having fun doing this. The third time I'm going to deliver the EPIC message and leave out pockets of information. But this time instead of shouting them out, you'll think about this information so you can internalize it. And again, unfortunately, we’ll all be remaining on mute.

In 2021, Congress passed a major expansion of the child tax credit. This change made the full CTC available for the first time to how many children? 21 million of the lowest income children, and allowed families to receive the credit as a what? Income tax credit. This problem expired on December 31, when millions of children were at risk of what? Falling back or deeper into poverty in 2022. The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation, and the impact has been immediate. Since the monthly payment started in July 2021, nearly how many children? Nearly 4 million children have been lifted out of poverty. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that the new CTC can reduce child poverty by what percentage? 45%. In November 2021, the House expanded the extended CTC for how long? Another year as part of the Build Back Better act. However, the bill has done what? Stalled in the Senate, putting far too many children and families in financial peril at the New Year's start. Congress must extend the expanded CTC, especially what? Full refundability for what? All low-income families, and the what? The monthly payment option. Will you urge your Senate colleagues in leadership to make what? Having the CTC expansion the top priority in 2022? How may I follow up with you on this?

Thank you for doing this. And the last step may be the most fun, and it is time to practice. We'll do the last step on your own, practice running through this and making sure you remember all the information. And you can do this right now.

Okay, I don't know about you all, but like I said, that was really fun for me. I hope you all enjoyed going through this EPIC message and going through the training. Just a reminder, the most amazing and powerful advocacy you can all have is advocacy that is personal, so I really encourage you to use this message as a way of presenting the problem. But I really encourage you to make this EPIC message personal. Think about how this issue resonates with you on a personal level, and find a way to incorporate that personal voice into this message to take this to the next level. And with that, I will turn this over to Ken.

Ken: Thanks so much, Errolyn. That was some great training. Happy 2022, advocates. I'm the grassroots director for Results. I've been with Results as a volunteer or staff member for about 20 years, and the things that have sustained me over these 20 years have been one, seeing the progress we've made, and two, getting to work with advocates like all of you.

I know there are a lot of new advocates on the line, including the new Results fellows class, welcome to all of you. There are new and recent advocates. Welcome to all of you as well. We also have advocates who have been with Results for between 2 and 40 years.

I want you to challenge yourself to be bold as we enter this new year. It's human nature to avoid risks or things that we perceive as dangerous, and Results asks you to do a lot of those things. Whether it's taking a leadership role, etc. But it's in stepping outside our comfort zones that we do things we know will make a difference, that we really grow. We really transform ourselves into better, bolder people by stretching ourselves. So I want to encourage you to take on transformation this year. But remember you won't have to do it alone. We are a family who supports each other. Lean on your advocate communities or the staff in this coming year.

You did so much great work in such a challenging year last year. And now we've got an opportunity to do really good work together again in 2022. I'm going to hand this over to my colleague Jos Linn, the grassroots impact manager, to show us all about how planning can make an impact in our advocacy in the coming year.

Jos: Good afternoon, folks. As Ken said, I'm the grassroots impact director. And based in Missouri. This year we are focusing on getting our 2022 roadmaps completed. after today's webinar, you'll have new information on our 2022 campaigns that you can now integrate into our plans, particularly how you can motivate our new members of Congress of the champion scale.

I want to mention two key points. As Ken mentioned, we welcomed a lot of new people into Results recently, almost 200 in 2022 alone. While we are speaking of leadership roles, this year we are going to support new ways for those of you taking on leadership roles in your group. As you know, regional coordinators and group leaders already get support, and we’ll continue to expand on that as well. But we want to expand that kind of support to other key roles in your group, such as new advocate mentors, media coordinators, and partnership and outreach leaders. We also plan to continue the support that everyone else got last year. We're going to take a minute now to look at some of the successes they've had in the last year. I'm going to play a video really quick here.

[♫ Music ♫.]

Okay. Again, thanks for all the work our action managers did last year. I want you to stay tuned for more details on these new structures and ongoing support in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please complete your 2022 group roadmaps with the roles each person will play. You can find the 2022 roadmap resources on the website. And if you have not scheduled your planning meeting yet, please do so as soon as possible. And when you meet, please complete the Google spreadsheet with your 2022 roadmap in it, which is the same online document that you used in 2021. And to make sure you have plenty of time to do this, we are extending the deadline to January 31. If you have any questions, please let me know. I am here to help.

Now I’m going to turn it back over to Ken, who is going to do our breakout session.

Ken: Thanks for that. Very excited to do our breakout session today. As you know, COVID has limited our ability to be with each other. During this exercise, we want to give you a chance to reconnect with each other and also do some thinking that will help you in your group and individual planning for 2022 at Jos just talked about. We'll have about 12 minutes for this exercise. We have some prompts for you as well that we’ll put on the screen for you to discuss with your groups. So just make sure that everybody gets a chance to talk, enjoy spending time with each other. And I'll send a time reminder to remind you how much time you have left. So I'm going to hit the breakout rooms. There will be four or five of you in each room. Please do join the breakout rooms and chat with folks. This is not a high-pressure situation. When you see that on the screen, go ahead and join your room. Are folks seeing a prompt for that at this point?

Jos: I'm not seeing it yet, Ken.

Ken: Let me recreate these guys. Any luck now?

[RECORDING STOPPED]

[RECORDING IN PROGRESS]

Anybody seeing that prompt yet?

Jos: I am not, Ken.

Ken: Let me try this again. It's not allowing me to do this for some reason.

Speaker: How many rooms do you want, Ken?

Ken: I was doing 50 rooms. Is anybody else able to do that?

Speaker: I think I just did. Is anybody seeing it now?

Ken: I'm not seeing it yet. Jos, I'm going to make you the host. Can you give that a shot?

Jos: Yeah, I just tried.

Lisa: Let me give it a shot. Maybe I can help.

Ken: Let me make you host, Lisa.

Lisa: Okay. How any rooms were you looking for?

Ken: Thanks for your patience, everyone. Jos, you actually need to make her host.

Lisa: Great. It looks like we're looking for 50 rooms?

Ken: Yep.

Lisa: Okay, give me just a moment. Let's give this a go. Ah, how interesting. Won't let me do it either.

Ken: How about we do this. I think we are going to have to punt on this one a little bit. I'm going to reclaim the host. It doesn't seem to be working. I'm going to ask you not to unmute yourselves all at once, but tell us one goal you had for yourself in 2022. We'll do this as a big group at this point. What is one goal you have for yourself in 2022? If you want to talk, raise your hand.

Gayle: My goal is to be a more effective advocate and to enroll a bunch of people in my group.

Ken: That's fantastic. What a great goal. Let's hear from Ashley.

Ashley: Hi, I'm with the Bloomington, Indiana group. And we have some big ideas about building our advocacy group around local leaders and food security in the community, and local leaders and community actions. My goal for 2022 is just one of those things, to dig into that outreach and hopefully spread our impacts a little bit more.

Ken: That sounds fantastic. Let's hear from Cheryl.

Cheryl: Hi, this is Cheryl Harris in New Mexico. I was going to suggest that you call on people by state or the first letter of their name or something so we can go in clumps quickly. My first goal is to get new people involved. I've had a hard time of getting to anybody, so I'm going to set a goal of three, or make it four, one each quarter. And I'm going to continue to do some writing.

Ken: That's fantastic, Cheryl. Anybody else have a goal? Feel free to raise your hand or just unmute yourself.

Tom: I have some goals I'd like to declare, Ken. It's Tom Corbett in Portland. I want to publish two op-ed pieces, not just letters to the editor, but full-blown op-ed pieces. So I'm committing to that. I also want to get four published letters to the editor. I'm assuming I can send them out anyplace, even to Chicago even if I'm in Portland. I won't be stepping on anybody's toes in Chicago as long as I don't declare myself a point person in Illinois. Thank you.

Ken: That's great, Tom. Anybody else?

Speaker: I have reached out to our senator in Wisconsin, and my plan is to continue because I have something to share with him. This is something I'm really passionate about because I grew up really young having to live in an environment that was really stressful, and I just happen to have all these young people just kind of fall in my lap and I'm not able to help all of them, but they've all been influenced by some information I shared with them, and I just want to get some help with this is. What my plan is for this year, and I'm pretty sure I will. I'm an active doctoral student, and I'm really really busy. I do have to check my calendars and my notes, but I am on it. I have stepped it up to another level where something that I've published, I'm going to make sure you get the piece of this and make that get his attention immediately. I was really surprised to get a response back that quickly. It was just a couple of weeks, and I just started with this program.

Ken: That's great, Kerri. And I look forward to connecting with you in North Carolina, and Asheville.

A lot of stuff on community outreach, which I'm really excited to hear as well because that's one of our muscles I think that maybe is kind of not as strong as it used to be anymore. Because of COVID, I think we had less opportunities to do outreach. I think we are going to have to be really creative with that in 2022 to engage new people.

Peter: This is Peter in Oregon. My representative of 30 years is not going to run again, so I have the goal of bird dogging the new candidate, representative to Congress from the Corvallis area, so that's going to be very exciting as well as the opportunity to engage new people and meeting the respective candidates.

Ken: That's a great idea, Peter. With the elections coming up at the end of the year, our group as well as talking about building relationships and rapport with candidates from both parties as they are running for office. If you've got a relationship before they get elected, that's a much stronger position to go into the relationship within the coming year once they are elected. And also, even if they don't get elected, there's a good chance they're going to end up in politics somewhere again, and that relationship could really benefit as well. That's a great idea, Peter. Very strategic.

Peter: They're very open to listening to people.

Ken: Great point.

Cindy: This is Cindy in St. Louis. Just talking about being creative and outreach. Withheld a few things since COVID hit which haven't really taken off. So I'm up trying something new this year, which is to be applying to be a keynote speaker for various webinars and taking advantage of the fact that a lot of conferences are still virtual, which means that I can go to them without actually leaving the state or getting on a plane. For instance, I'm going to talk about advocacy and I'm a keynote speaker for the Illinois PTA group. And if I can do that, maybe they will recommend me to other PTA groups. There are 50 states. Just the fact that we are at home doesn't mean that we can't reach out. So I'm giving that a try, which is new for me.

Ken: I think that's a great idea, Cindy. And even a great idea for everyone to consider, even in your local communities. There is an option of leading and advocacy skills training workshop for local group or a college class or something like that. We should be looking for those opportunities. I think that's a fantastic idea.

So we are at time on this. Again, I appreciate everybody's patience with the nonworking breakout rooms. Really great to be with all of you. I'm going to turn this over to our senior associate for our Experts on Policy program. She's going to talk to you about an excellent opportunity.

Keisha: Awesome, there we go. Zoom technical difficulties as always. As Ken said my name is Keisha. You might have seen emails and weekly updates, different things that experts have put out. And as a person with lived experience of poverty myself, whose family struggled a lot with housing instability and homelessness, I know I can provide a level of nuance that no one else can. We also understand the emotional, mental, and physical toll that poverty has on an individual and family level because we've lived it and we've breathed this, every single day either now or at one point in our lives. That's why it's so essential for those with lived experience to share their experiences.

You can find the application guide to the Experts on Poverty cohort online. That guide gives more detail on what being an expert is all about. The application will be open until the end of the day on Monday, January 17, so a little over a week from now. If you're someone with lived experience, I highly encourage you to apply. If you are not someone with lived experience, please encourage somebody you know.

With that quick update, I will turn it over to Yolanda, who I believe is next, to talk about the fellowship.

Yolanda: My name is Yolanda Gordon, and I'm responsible for the Results fellowship. It is an honor and a privilege to have read over the applications and interviewed every one of these fellows. They are essential to the work that we do to end poverty in our lifetime. I know that for many of our fellows joining today, this is very overwhelming. But you are now a part of an awesome group of advocates. As information rolls out and they begin to join your groups, give them a warm Results welcome. These young adults could decide to do anything else, but they're here to learn from us. And to start some good trouble. Congratulations to those selected for the 2022 cohort and I'm excited to work with you in the coming year.

I'm not sure who I'm passing it to.

Ken: This next goes to Lisa. Let me make sure that Lisa is able to unmute. She's having some problems too. Okay. Sorry about that, folks.

Lisa: Great. Thank you for that. We are so excited about the possibilities, not only with the Experts on Poverty program continuing but with our new fellowship class. We are working hard to bring you a really enticing menu of learning opportunities in 2022. We can't possibly cover them all today. They are listed in the slides, and we will continue to highlight them in the weekly update. And you can always look at the full menu on the events tab in our website. But we wanted to lift up a few things for you. First is actually a task. An event that you do, which is reporting for 2021 your actions. If you have any trouble reporting those, let your regional coordinator know. Don't let those actions go unreported.

Finally the events. January 2022 is our policy forums. We will be welcoming No White Saviors from Uganda. the first of our series of diversity and inclusion 101 trainings. We are going to have a slew of trainings that you can choose from for this 90-minute training to get you well-versed in anti-oppression language and tools. The first opportunity to take that training is February 5 at 3 PM Eastern time, right after this national webinar. And finally, February 26 is going to be something really special. It's called Back to Our Roots, and afternoon events that all are welcome for. You'll hear more about it soon. But it's connecting policy to the BIPOC community and a historical context. If you have any questions about these events, you can go to the events calendar on our website. Check your weekly update. And I'll also put my email in the chat. I'm Lisa Marchal, grassroots organizer in Indiana.

John: Welcome to 2022. It's my privilege and pleasure to announce information about the 2022 Results International Conference. We are thrilled to announce our 2022 international conference, or IC as we call it, will be the weekend of June 4. We will be planning on running a virtual conference again this year, and we are really excited to welcome our first keynote speaker, Jelani Cobb. He is a reporter on frontline pieces and a really important voice and commentator on race in politics. We'll have lots more information about additional speakers and the agenda coming soon. The international conference, for those of you who have not experienced it either virtually or in person, Is an opportunity for learning in person. We are really looking forward to being able to gather virtually for our next international conference.

But speaking of community, we are so eager to welcome you to DC at some point, to welcome you back to DC for those of you who got to walk the halls of the Senate and Congress. For those of you who have joined us more recently and haven't had that opportunity, we want you to be able to do that safely and smartly. While we'd love to be planning a conference in DC for the summer, we have to make considerations now, and we are just not at a point now where we can be planning that kind of event for the summer. As I'm sure folks understand.

That said, you're not off the hook entirely because we are working on planning for opportunities to bring Results grassroots to DC at various points throughout the year. That'll be different than a typical international conference experience. We anticipate these events to be smaller and maybe somewhat different in format. But we really want to be able to create and provide those opportunities all throughout the year. Particularly as makes sense in the legislative calendar. Given the number of folks that have joined our network, our new fellows, the fellowship class from last year, folks that have connected really just since the pandemic started, we really want to prioritize those folks in particular to give them an opportunity to be able to meet with our members of Congress in DC. But by the end of the year, we invite anyone who is able and willing, again, as public health allows, to have that opportunity. Lots more will come out again on the virtual international conference weekend of June 4 with many of us and many others, and again hopefully some opportunities to get together.

With that, we are going to transition to the global portion of the webinar this month. And I didn't properly introduce myself. I am John Fawcett. I'm just outside DC in Maryland today. I'm wearing my Kansas state motto T-shirt. I appreciate everyone's patience and appreciating this community today.

I want to talk a bit more about the policy and legislative opportunities that we have ahead on global policy issues. My colleague Karen is going to help ground us in this critical information. As we talked about a bit in December, if you are able to join that webinar, we talked about key issues in 2022. One is to transform the fight against both old pandemics, so AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, as well as new pandemics. Moving from an emergency response to a more durable response that addresses particularly malnutrition that affects young children.

We were able to do a couple of great deep dive sessions. I say great. I was able to do a lot of them. Those are available on our website as training resources if you want to catch up on nutrition. Most of what I want to talk about today is a bit of a refresher and grounding about where we are on the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The global fund is really the key multilateral, which means countries and other partners coming together to address these three pandemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. And it has been tremendously successful in the 20 years of its existence. You really have to think back or study the situation 20 years ago in which, again, very much a parallel with where we are today where most people in high income countries had access to things like antiretroviral therapy for HIV and AIDS. Tuberculosis wasn't really a concern, or certainly malaria had been wiped out. There was this huge gulf between the situation in lower income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where HIV/AIDS was really ravaging the subcontinent where treatment for AIDS existed but was not affordable or available.

The global fund is part of the global solidarity movement in response to address this inequity. Next slide please?

One of the particular reasons that we have focused on the global fund as a way to confront these diseases of poverty is because of the particular role that it plays and that we have played in addressing tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is curable. It is a treatable disease. But just prior to COVID, it was the leading infectious killer of adults even though it's treatable, and treatable usually for a relatively cost-effective way. So the global fund has played a really key role in the progress that we've been able to make around TB. And again, tuberculosis is associated with poverty. It's associated with poor or crowded housing conditions. It's associated with the underlying compromised immunity whether that sort of poor health or poor nutrition or co-infection with HIV/AIDS in particular. Tuberculosis is the leading killer of people with HIV/AIDS. So that's why we focused on tuberculosis, and that's why the global fund is a really important mechanism for us to address this disease. But it's not just the fact that the global fund has channeled a lot of funding to tuberculosis programs. It's the particular way in which it does it. Which is why we are really supportive of this model and embrace it, not just as an effective public health intervention but also an institution that upholds values that are very important to us and to our colleagues and communities around the world, particularly those who are most affected by the disease. Let me talk about that. Next slide, please.

The way the global fund kind of generally works is that you have countries make investment decisions or proposals to the global fund. The global fund reviews those from a kind of technical standpoint to make sure they are sound, sometimes makes additions or corrections or other kinds of changes. And it's really up to the local experts to implement that program, and that expertise comes from a combination of the governments of countries that are burdened by these diseases in particular, as well as private organizations, faith-based organizations, are also funded by the global fund to do this work. And then the global fund provides, in addition to the technical support, oversight as to how the resources are spent.

But what this particular slide doesn't illustrate, which I think is maybe the more interesting piece here, is really where the power is held within this sort of circle of decision-making. The global fund has a really unique model and pieces of development. The way it actually works in the global fund I think is quite unique. And that is a system of governance in terms of how power is held and how decisions are made at a global and country level that involves the folks were most affected by these diseases. Not only involves them, but puts decision-making power in their hands.

Also on the global fund board are representatives from low income countries, from countries that are implementing these programs. And their vote is not diluted. They have the same voting power as other board members that are donating billions of dollars along with foundations and the largest economies in the world. In addition to low income countries being represented on the board, you have civil society organizations with separate seats on the board for global societies in the global North, so organizations like us, participating in that process as well as advocacy organizations, civil society movements from the global South. In addition to that, you have a board seat for affected communities, so communities most affected by these diseases. So all of that leads to a governance structure that is really more inclusive and balanced than what you typically see in an aid program.

It's a requirement of the global fund that the country coordinating mechanism includes civil society, includes the voices and participation and decision-making of the communities that are directly affected. So it's not just the technical experts. It's not just the government that are making those decisions at the country level. This is a really important and precious and important model in global development and global solidarity, and it is really why we are such big supporters of the global fund in addition to the tremendous policy impact that it's had. Next slide, please.

So in addition to the lives saved, there's actually been some analysis of how this governance, does it really make a difference? Does it just make us feel good? Is a lot of nice words? Or is it actually resulting in a lot of changes in countries because of this governance model? There's a really interesting paper from someone who used to work at results, and his colleague looks at global fund assistance to countries, and controlled for, meaning separating out other kinds of assistance through other channels, bilaterally or through the World Bank or some other mechanism. And they found the global fund uniquely contributes to things like reduced corruption, good governance, the regulatory quality of drugs and diagnostics, as well as voice and accountability in a rule of law, meaning that global fund assistance is uniquely associated among other kind of aid programs with upholding human rights and incorporating in a meaningful, substantive way, the views of the people that are most affected.

The headline is always about the lives saved and communities affected by reduced disease, and that's really important. But there are these other pieces that are kind of unique to the fund that we are kind of really interested in. Next slide please.

We know that COVID-19 has had a really devastating impact on a whole bunch of things that we all care about in our own lives and globally. There's really been a disproportionate impact in terms of global health of COVID-19 on tuberculosis. That is to a large extent due to the fact that the same kind of -- related Covid response in many countries has been built on top of or has leveraged or borrowed from the tuberculosis response. The TB response has had training and supplies on respiratory infectious disease. That has been commandeered to fight Covid 19. Tuberculosis has really dropped off a cliff in response to COVID 19. And the World Health Organization estimate that we are really losing progress on tuberculosis.

With the exception of vaccines, the global fund is the primary provider right now, financer, of the tools for low income countries to fight COVID-19. Global fund has been a mechanism by which the world has started to channel those resources to countries because it has this track record of being able to mobilize a lot of money and translate supplies and resources on the ground that can make an impact at scale.

So the global fund has a model where they ask their donors every three years for additional funding pledges. They call it a replenishment. Donors get together. They make their pledges to the global fund. Once the global fund present a plan for how they're going to use those resources. And this year, in fact just last month, Pres. Biden on World AIDS Day, announced that the US is taking responsibility of mobilizing the donor community to step up and make big contributions. This contributions are needed not just to stop AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and restore the progress we've made on those diseases, but also to really better prepare for the next pandemic and to better address COVID-19 right now. So we expect that the resource needs for the global fund will be much more significant, much bigger, and US contribution and leadership need to be much bigger than they have been in the past.

We will have lots of opportunities and engagements for you in the global fund. The first one that we anticipate later this month is a bipartisan sign-on letter to Pres. Biden really kind of outlining what the next steps are on US leadership, which is not just agreeing to host the replenishment but making sure that the president puts money in his budget request to Congress that shows that the US is serious about leading a really big, successful replenishment. So I hope that all was helpful.

There's one more slide that has some details about the role that the global fund plays in the pandemic response. I will leave you to peruse that later because there's a lot of fun detail in there.

My colleague Karen is going to lead us all in a speaking exercise.

Karen: Thanks so much, John. Happy new year everyone. So exciting to see you and see so many new faces. I'm excited to walk you through another EPIC laser talk. As mentioned earlier during our US poverty section, and EPIC laser talk helps you share a problem and inform on the solution and call to action. This can be used during a lobbying meeting, to leave a phone message, or even to send an email directly to an aide in the office..

During our EPIC talk, we'll be going through the laser talk for the global fund four times together so you can begin to learn it, practice it, and have it handy while you needed. After the laser talk today, we'll share a link where you can find it on our website. But for now, the key is to listen and remember as much as you can. I'll deliver the laser talk again leaving out key information, and this time I encourage you to shout out if you know the information while on mute, or feel free to deliver me a direct message in the chat. The next time just Inc. about the missing information to see if you internalized it. And last, practice, practice, practice. That's what makes the laser talk perfect. I encourage you to talk with anyone in the room with you today. I think my cat is in the room with me today.

First step, just listen to our ask someone global poverty. I'm excited that the US is hosting the replenishment conference for the global fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria this year. This will be an opportunity to gain momentum on fighting three diseases and improve pandemic preparedness. We need leadership now because the COBIT 19 pandemic has had devastating effects on the impact of global health, with tuberculosis services being disproportionately affected. According to the World Health Organization, TB case detection has plummeted due to pandemic related disruptions and services. And for the first time in more than a decade, tuberculosis mortality has increased. We must learn from what works. The global fund has a proven track record in working in over 120 countries to address pandemics. Since 2002, the global fund partnership has saved more than 44 million lives. And the global fund has been on the front lines of the COVID response. The global fund is now the primary form of grant support to low and middle income countries for TB test, equipment, and critical elements of health system strengthening. Will you please sign on to the bipartisan letter to Pres. Biden calling for a bold pledge to end AIDS, TB, and malaria and to stop future pandemics? Next slide.

I will now deliver the talk again leaving out key information stop if you feel you know it's missing, feel free to send a message to me in the chat or shout out the answer on mute.

I'm excited that the US is hosting the replenishment conference for the global fund to fight? What diseases? AIDS, TB, and malaria later this year. This will be an opportunity to regain momentum on fighting three diseases and improve pandemic preparedness. We need US leadership now because COBIT 19 has had a devastating effect on every aspect of global health with what disease? Tuberculosis services being disproportionately affected. According to the World Health Organization, TB case detection has plummeted due to? Pandemic related disruptions. And for the first time in more than a decade, tuberculosis mortality has? Has increased. We must learn from what works. The global fund has had a proven track record effectively working in over how many countries? 120 countries. Since 2002, the global fund partnership has saved how many lives? 44 million. Very good. And the global fund has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. The global fund is the primary channel support to which countries? Low and middle income countries. For COVID-19 test, treatments, personal protective equipment, and critical elements of? Health system strengthening. Will you Please sign on to the letter addressed to the Biden administration?

Last I'll deliver the laser talk leaving out key information, and this time just try to internalize what you feel is missing from the information. I'm excited that the US is hosting the replenishment for the Global Fund to fight? AIDS, TB, and malaria this year. This will be an opportunity to regain momentum on three diseases and improve pandemic preparedness. We need US leadership now because COVID-19 has had devastating effects on every aspect of global health, with tuberculosis services being disproportionately affected. According to the World Health Organization, TB case detection has plummeted due to? Pandemic related disruptions in services. And for the first time in a decade, tuberculosis mortality has increased. We must learn from what works. The global fund has a proven track record of effectively working in over? 120 countries to address pandemics. Since 2002, the global fund partnership has saved? 44 million lives. And the global fund has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. Through their COVID-19 response mechanism, the global fund is now the primary mechanism support to low and middle income countries for tests, treatments, personal protective equipment, and critical elements of? Health system strengthening. Will you please sign on to the bipartisan letter to? Pres. Biden calling for a bold pledge to end AIDS, TB, and malaria and to stop future pandemics?

Next slide.

All right. Now it's up to you to practice and make the talk your own. Jos, I'm actually going to share my screen where I'll have the full talk up, if you want to just send the message in the chat to make sure you can see my screen.

Speaker: We can see it, Karen.

Karen: All right. Let's take the remaining time. We have two minutes left as we are wrapping up the webinar.

Speaker: Karen, we can see the Skype chat. You might want to minimize that.

Karen: Oh whoops, sorry about that. I have too many things open. I apologize. Do you see the script now?

Ken: Yes. Make it bigger, though, if you could.

Karen: Sure. Does that work for everyone?

Jos: Yeah, that's better.

Karen: Okay, great.

All right. I hope you were able to convince the next person in the room or perhaps your pet playing the role of your representative on signing on to the bipartisan letter to Pres. Biden. With that, just a reminder that we will be sharing a link to the full laser talk in an email after today's webinar. For you to practice on your own or with your group. It's a great activity. I'll now pass it over to Ken, who will be closing today's webinar.

Ken: Thanks, Karen. We’ll be doing more of these. We’ll be doing more trainings on the national webinar throughout the year. Despite the technical difficulties, I want to wish everyone a happy new year. We are excited about working with everyone this year. We want you to have transformational experiences in your advocacy as the year comes. So I'm going to allow you all to unmute yourselves and wish each other a happy new year.

[End of webinar]