

70% of People with AIDS worldwide *STILL* lack access to treatment.

60% of HIV+ pregnant women *STILL* do not have access to mother-to-child HIV prevention.

Some countries *STILL* have as few as one doctor per 40,000 people.

3 million people are *STILL* infected with HIV every year.

AIDS is *STILL* the leading cause of death for adults worldwide.

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IS NOT OVER. NOT EVEN CLOSE.

Since 2001, activists have been successful in pushing the US and other wealthy nations to wake up to the global AIDS crisis. Combined, donor nations tripled their health-related development aid, from \$7.2 billion in 2001 to \$22.1 billion in 2007. Before this dramatic increase in funding, less than 0.1% of people living with HIV who needed treatment could access it. Now, more than 30% of people in need have access, and life expectancy is increasing.

But this progress is threatened by the global financial crisis, and the failure of the US and other rich countries to come through on commitments to fund the fight against global AIDS. **If just 0.1% of all the funding directed to bail out Wall Street instead had gone to global AIDS, we would be able to continue to reverse the course of the AIDS epidemic.**

Instead, as a direct result of broken funding promises, activists from developing countries are reporting that access to HIV medicine is faltering.

- In Uganda, funding shortfalls have caused people who qualify for free antiretroviral medication to be turned away from government clinics.
- In South Africa, some clinics have stopped enrolling new patients in treatment programs as a result of decreased funding from wealthy nations as well as domestic budget cuts.
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria will not issue a call for new funding proposals for at least 1 ½ years, even though it had been launching 2 funding rounds per year before the crisis.
- Clinics in Nigeria have had to end new enrollment in treatment programs as a result of a shortage of funding for AIDS treatment programs.

HIV IS NOT IN RECESSION! PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS MUST KEEP THE PROMISE TO FUND THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS.

Take action this World AIDS Day (December 1st) to call on Congress and the Administration to keep their promises to fund the fight against global AIDS. Contact Kaytee Riek, Director of Organizing for Health GAP, at 215-397-4326 or kaytee@healthgap.org for more information and to get involved.



President Obama and Congress' broken AIDS promises could mean death for millions

CAMPAIGN PROMISE	STATUS SO FAR
Providing \$50 billion over five years for global AIDS, more than double the amount provided over the first five years of US global AIDS programs	President Obama's first budget only increased funding for global AIDS by \$100 million, or 3%, even though funding should have been nearly doubled to \$8 billion. Previous years had seen global AIDS funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief increased by \$1 billion or more. Because promised funding has not come through, treatment programs are forced to stop new enrollment of HIV+ people, clinics are experiencing stock outs of key drugs, expansion of training of new doctors and nurses has been put on hold, and innovative prevention programs have been left unfunded. Additionally, Obama announced a new "Global Health Initiative" that actually proposes to cut global AIDS funding from his previous pledge by Congress by \$6 billion over the next six years!
Increase the US contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria	US funding for the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria has lagged behind what the US should contribute. President Obama pledged to change this, and increase funding for the Global Fund. But his first budget did not include any increase in funding, even though at least \$1 billion more was needed. The Global Fund is currently facing a funding shortfall of billions of dollars. As a result of the US and other wealthy nations going back on promises to increase funding for the Global Fund, no new rounds of funding have been launched, and existing, well-performing grants will not receive promised continuations of funding. The Global Fund not only provides 1/3 of all HIV funding for the world, but over half of TB and malaria funding come through this multilateral initiative.
Expand access to affordable generic drugs in developing countries	For more than ten years the US has negotiated trade agreements that undermine rights of countries to access low-cost, generic versions of patented medications guaranteed by the World Trade Organization. President Obama promised to change this, by ending the US policy of punishing countries that seek to access generic medication through a legal process known as a "compulsory license." However, that change has not become reality. For example, Thailand successfully issued a compulsory license to slash prices on crucial medicines and, as a result, found itself included in Bush's "301 Watch List," which lists countries that the US feels are not sufficiently protecting intellectual property rights. In spite of his promise, Obama's first "301 Report" maintained Thailand as a priority country. Because Thailand continues to be punished for their legal action, other countries are apprehensive to take the same action, and face the same consequences. This keeps medicine prices high for millions because of a lack of generic competition.
Lift the federal ban on federal funding of syringe exchange	For twenty years, Congress had used each year's budget to ban any federal funding from going to syringe exchange programs. These programs are proven effective at reducing HIV infection rates, without increasing drug use. President Obama promised to lift the ban on funding of syringe exchange, but his first budget included the ban. The House of Representatives removed the ban from their budget, but replaced it with a restriction that would not allow federal funding of any syringe exchange operating within 1,000 feet of a long list of locations, including schools, parks and daycares. This will have the same effect as the federal funding ban. The Senate's version of the budget has maintained the ban. What is needed is for the House and Senate to pass versions of the budget without the ban, and without any new restrictions.